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Measuring Up

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
on the performance
of the
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

1997-98 Results

JUNE 1998

Alberta
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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Measuring Up

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For consolidated financial statements, see the companion publication entitled ***"Building Alberta Together: 1997-98, the Annual Report of the Government of Alberta"****.*

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Measuring Up

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Measuring Up

A word about Measuring Up . . .

This is the fourth annual *Measuring Up* report to Albertans on the performance of the Alberta government. The results reported herein relate to the Government's Business Plan that was published as part of *Budget '97*. This report is required pursuant to section 10 of the Government Accountability Act.

The implementation of Alberta's performance measurement system is a work in progress. We recognize that to serve the public's information needs well, and to assist decision makers in their public policy and budget deliberations, we need to seek continuous improvements to the system.

Purpose of the report

The report serves two purposes. First, *Measuring Up* is an accountability document. It provides a report to Albertans on the results achieved compared to targets set in the Government Business Plan. Combined with the financial results released in the *Public Accounts*, they provide Albertans with comprehensive information on both financial and program results.

Second, *Measuring Up* is intended to help policy makers improve the quality of programs and services for Albertans. By measuring and tracking results, we can look at what is working well and what is not. And we can make choices about whether to revise, retain, or drop certain programs.

The core measures

Measures are reported for each of the government's three core businesses: People, Prosperity and Preservation. **The goals are taken from the 1997-2000 Government Business Plan.**

Measuring Up contains 27 core performance measures that are related to 17 government goals. Two of the measures are drafts that we will begin reporting on in next year's *Measuring Up*, and one is still under development.

Why so few measures? Just as there are only a few instruments on the dashboard of your car, we have selected a few key indicators that best represent the overall performance of the Alberta Government. Just as a car's instruments cannot tell you everything about your car, the core performance measures cannot tell us everything about the government's performance. While not necessarily complete, they do provide a rough measure of the progress Alberta is making in key areas such as the economy, health, justice, environment, and community. Most of the 27 core measures also have supplemental information that provides context.

Each of the government ministries also has a set of key performance measures that are related to their business plan goals and objectives. Ministry measures provide more detailed information on specific program performance and can help diagnose problem areas. These measures, which are reported in ministry annual reports released in the fall of each year, provide information on results achieved in ministry programs and services, and provide further context for the *Measuring Up* core measures.

New for this year

- Some of the measures have been revised or modified, and a new measure has been added (Infrastructure Capacity).
- Two proposed measures have been introduced for information (Heritage Appreciation and Intergovernmental Relations), and will be reported on beginning in 1999.
- Measures have been grouped by Government Business Plan goal.
- Key strategies which relate to each goal have been taken from the Government Business Plan.

An invitation to rate our performance

We encourage you to read *Measuring Up* and let us know what you think. There's a feedback sheet at the back of this report for you to mail or fax to us. You may also contact us via e-mail at measuringup@treas.gov.ab.ca.

Highlights for 1997-98

This report is intended to provide detailed information on government's progress in relation to its goals in each of the three core businesses: People, Prosperity and Preservation.

For 1997-98, the government's agenda focused on:

- continuing with plans for fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets and debt repayment
- monitoring the changes made and ensuring a smooth transition to new structures and strategies
- investing only in areas where we will see an increase in the quality of the program or service
- continuing to promote policies that attract business and bring jobs to Alberta
- maintaining a strong Alberta in a strong and united Canada
- continuing to listen to Albertans.

That agenda was reflected in the government's 1997-2000 business plan goals, priorities and strategies.

Overall, government's actions have reflected the agenda that was set. Fiscal responsibility continued to be a top priority of government and substantial progress was made in getting spending in line with revenues and paying down Alberta's debt. Targeted reinvestments in 1997-98 were designed to address pressure points in health, education and improvements to Alberta's transportation links. Alberta's economy continued to grow with more jobs being created.

The following are the highlights of areas where good progress has been made and other areas where improvement is needed.

Good progress has been made in . . .

- **Life expectancy** - Albertans have among the highest life expectancies in the world. Life expectancy has increased since 1971.
- **Births to mothers under age 18** - The birth rate for Alberta women under 18 dropped by 28% between 1991 and 1996.
- **Literacy and numeracy skills** - grade 9 language arts test scores remained above the provincial standard (target) of 85% in 1997.
- **Family income distribution** - The number of Alberta families with incomes less than $20,000 declined to 9.1% in 1996, exceeding our target of 10%.
- **Taxation load** - Alberta's total tax load on persons is the lowest in Canada.
- **Net debt** - By the end of 1997-98, net debt, excluding pension liabilities was down to $1.1 billion.
- **Job creation** - 44,200 net new jobs were created in 1997.
- **Crime rate** - Property crimes were down by 2.3% in 1996.
- **Serious youth crime** - Both violent and property crime rates continued to fall in 1996-97. Violent crimes dropped 3.3%, and property crimes fell 8.0%.
- **Air quality** - No days of poor air quality were reported in 1997.

Areas for improvement include . . .

- **High school completion rate** - Alberta's high school completion rate remained unchanged at 69% in 1997, below the target of 75%.
- **Math scores** - In 1997, grade 9 mathematics test scores remained well below the provincial standard (target) of 85%.
- **Births to mothers under age 18** - The rate at which young women are having children continues to fall, but Alberta's rate in 1995 was still 27% higher than the Canadian average.
- **Private sector funding of research and development** - Alberta business funding of R&D declined slightly to 6.7% of Canadian business spending in 1995, still well below our target of 11.0%.
- **Personal tax rate** - While Alberta's total tax load is the lowest in Canada, Alberta's personal income tax rate is the second lowest in Canada behind Ontario.
- **Workplace Climate** - The rate of person-days lost to disputes increased significantly in 1997, the second highest level in Canada. The increase was mainly due to the Canada Safeway dispute. The rate of person days lost to injuries also increased in 1997.

- **Violent crime rate** - Alberta's violent crime rate remains slightly above the Canadian average.

- **Serious youth crime** - Although the rate of youth crime fell in 1996-97, Alberta's rates remain well above the Canadian average.

- **Oil and gas reserves** - The production of conventional oil and gas continues to exceed the rate of replacement, resulting in declining reserves.

- **Downstream water quality** - Water quality downstream from Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge is not acceptable for recreational use.

Looking ahead

In addition to reporting to Albertans on the results achieved, one of the purposes of *Measuring Up* is to assist government in making choices, developing business plans, and improving programs and services for Albertans.

The results from this year's *Measuring Up* report will provide important information for updating and revising government and ministry business plans for 1999-2002. Albertans can expect to see many of the areas for improvement highlighted in future business plans with appropriate strategies in place.

The 1999 edition of *Measuring Up* will represent a further improvement in performance measurement. Measures will have been created to address each of the government's 17 goals.

Measuring results is an important part of the government's commitment to Albertans. By tracking progress, assessing where targets are being met and where we're falling short, and reporting that information to Albertans, we can ensure that ongoing improvements are made to the quality of services Albertans receive.

Report of the Auditor General

on the Results of Applying Specified Auditing Procedures to Core Performance Measures

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have performed the following procedures in connection with the Province of Alberta's set of core measures included in ***Measuring Up — Fourth Annual Report on the performance of the Government*** of Alberta dated June 1998:

1. Information obtained from an independent source, such as Statistics Canada, was agreed with the information supplied by the stated source. Information provided internally was agreed to the reports from the systems used to develop the information.

2. The calculations which converted source information into reported measures were tested.

3. The appropriateness of the description of each measure's methodology was assessed.

As a result of applying the above procedures, I found no exceptions. However, these procedures do not constitute an audit of the set of core measures and therefore I express no opinion on the set of core measures included in ***Measuring Up — Fourth Annual Report on the performance of the Government of Alberta***.

Peter Valentine

FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
June 17, 1998

Performance Highlights

People . . . helping Albertans to be self-reliant, capable and caring

The core business of *People* focuses on government's work in the areas of:

- fostering lifelong learning
- providing excellent schools, colleges, universities and technical institutes
- building a healthy society with accessible health care
- providing basic support and protection for those in need, and
- working with others to support families.

There are five government goals for the *People* core business and six *People* performance measures. **Overall, three measures showed improved performance and three remained unchanged.** The following are the 1997-98 performance highlights for these six *People* measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

⇧	improved performance
▬	no significant change in performance from previous year
⇩	declining performance

⇧ **Life Expectancy at Birth** - Alberta has among the highest life expectancies in the world. In 1996, life expectancy was 81.3 years for females and 76.0 years for males. Longevity in Alberta compares favourably with Japan, which has the highest life expectancy in the world for females (82.9 years) and Iceland for males (76.5 years).

▬ **Health Status** - Between 1996 and 1998 there was a slight increase in the percentage of Albertans who rated their health as poor or fair.

⇧ **Births to Mothers under Age 18** - The rate of births to young women in Alberta has declined by 28% between 1991 and 1996. The gap between Alberta's rate and the Canadian rate has also narrowed.

▬ **Educational Attainment** - The percentage of students graduating from high school within 6 years of entering grade 9 remained unchanged from last year at 69%, below our target of 75%.

▬ **Literacy and Numeracy** - In 1997, grade 9 language arts test scores remained above the provincial standard (target) of 85%. However, mathematics test scores are down to the 1995 level of 66%, still well below the provincial standard.

⇧ **Family Income Distribution** - The percent of families with incomes less than $20,000 dropped to 9.1% in 1996, surpassing our target of 10%.

While some core measures for people show better performance, **there are opportunities for improvement in the following areas**:

- **High School Completion** - The percentage of students who complete high school within six years of entering grade 9 is still below target. Completing high school is critical to ensuring that our students obtain the skills necessary to become independent. As adults who have not completed high school experience higher unemployment rates, we will continue to strive for a 75% completion rate.

- **Math Skills** - The percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard for mathematics remains well below our target. Changes in the mathematics curriculum last year may have contributed to part of the decline, but should improve future performance.

- **Heart Disease and Cancer Rates** - Heart disease, cancer and respiratory-related ailments are still the major causes of death in Alberta. Death rates from cancer have remained virtually unchanged since 1976.

- **Births to Mothers under Age 18** - While births to young women have declined since the peak in 1991, Alberta's continuing higher birth rate than the Canadian average is a concern.

- **Family Income Falling** - The 1995 average real income of non-elderly families, including two parents with children, single mothers, and non-elderly individuals, has fallen since 1981 by 15%, 33%, and 19% respectively.

People . . .

helping Albertans to be self reliant, capable and caring through:

- a healthy society and accessible health care
- basic support and protection for those in need
- lifelong learning
- excellent schools, colleges, universities and training institutes
- supportive families and compassionate communities.

	Goal	Measures	Results
⇧	Albertans will be healthy.	**Life Expectancy at Birth**	Female life expectancy of 81.3 years and male expectancy of 76.0 years in 1996.
–		**Health Status**	Slight increase in the percentage rating their health as fair or poor.
⇧	Our children will be well cared for and safe.	**Births to Mothers Under Age 18**	Birth rate and number of births continues to drop but remains above Canadian average.
–	Alberta students will excel.	**Educational Attainment**	High school completion rate steady at 69% but below target.
–	Albertans will be independent.	**Literacy and Numeracy**	Language arts test scores still above target. Mathematics down to 1995 level of 66%.
⇧		**Family Income Distribution**	Percentage of families with incomes under $20,000 has dropped below the target to 9.1%.
–	Albertans not expected to support themselves fully.	**Albertans Needing Help**	Measure under development.

Core Measure: Life Expectancy at Birth

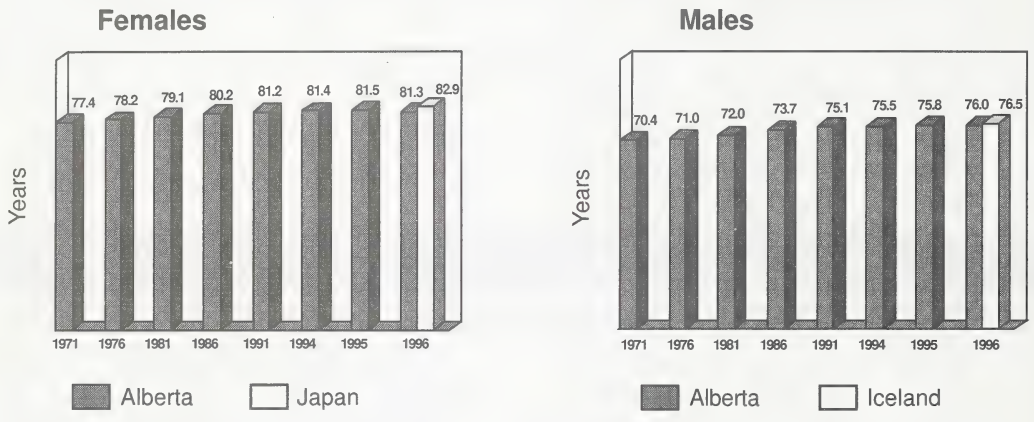
Target

The life expectancy of Albertans will be among the highest in the world. In 1996, Japan had the highest life expectancy for females (82.9 years), while Iceland had the highest for males (76.5 years).

Results

The life expectancy of Albertans is among the highest in the world. Life expectancy has generally increased steadily for both males and females by roughly one year every five calendar years between 1971 and 1991.

In 1996 the life expectancy of Alberta females was 81.3 years. For Alberta males, life expectancy was 76.0 years.



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-001, 82-003, 91-209 and 84-210 & United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1996

Life Expectancy at Birth is an estimate of the average number of years that a person born in that year will live, based upon current mortality statistics. Life expectancy is a universally recognized indicator that a population is healthy, has adequate access to health care, has healthy diets, and is protected from the effects of environmental, workplace or other hazards that would shorten lives (see also *Air Quality, Water Quality* and *Workplace Climate* measures). Comparisons between countries have shown that life expectancy is related to national wealth and economic development, the quality of the health care system, and individual socio-economic status.

We want to increase the number of years lived in good health. Albertans' overall life expectancy is strongly affected by infant mortality and the three major causes of death: heart disease, cancer, and respiratory ailments (see supplemental information). Reducing mortality rates from these factors will increase overall life expectancy for Albertans.

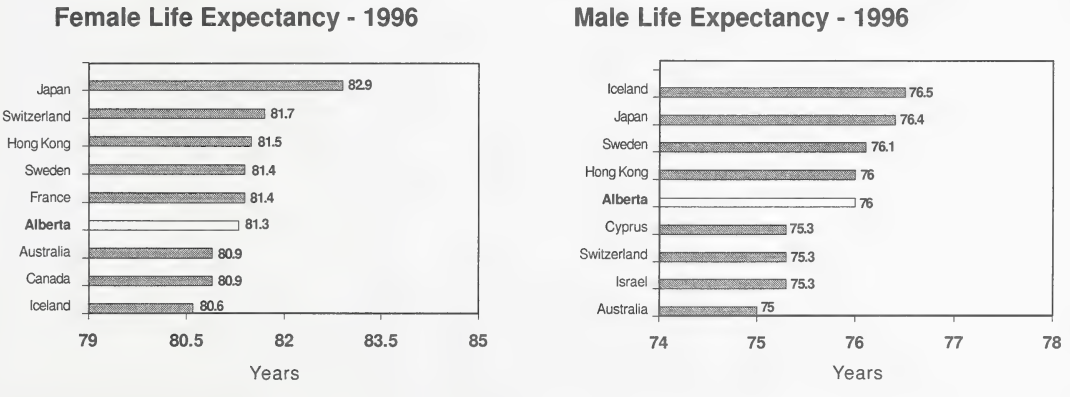
Methodology

Life expectancy estimates are calculated and published by Statistics Canada.

Key Strategies for Goal 1

- ensure all Albertans, young and old, have access to quality health services when they need them. — *Health*
- get the best value from public dollars through reduced administration and effective and efficient management. — *Health*
- provide more services in communities and in people's homes where they need them. — *Health*
- streamline and simplify the health system, reduce duplication and ensure better coordination of services. — *Health*
- provide more emphasis on education, prevention of illness and injury, and promotion of healthy, active lifestyles. — *Community Development, Health, Labour*

Life Expectancy: Top Countries and Alberta

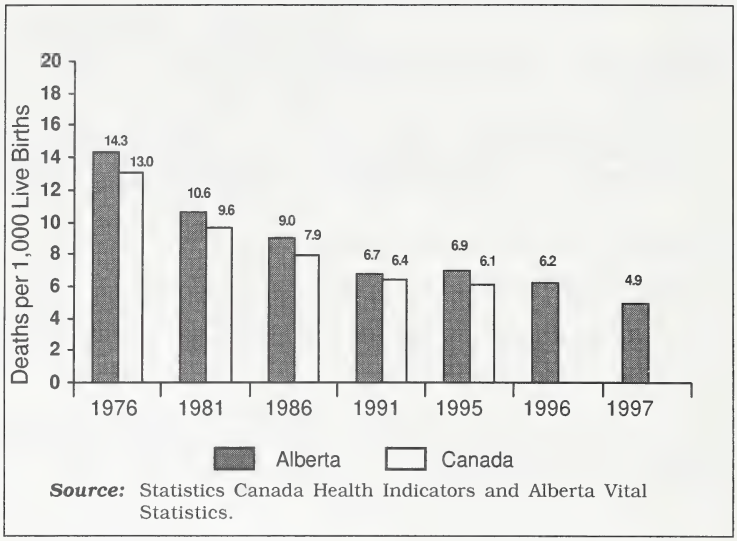


Source: Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, Births and Deaths 1996; United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1996.

Infant Mortality
(Per 1,000 Live Births)

Life expectancy is strongly affected by the rate of infant mortality. Alberta's infant mortality rate has dropped over the past 20 years, falling to 4.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1997 (based on preliminary data).

In 1995, Alberta had a slightly higher infant mortality rate compared to the Canadian average.



Source: Statistics Canada Health Indicators and Alberta Vital Statistics.

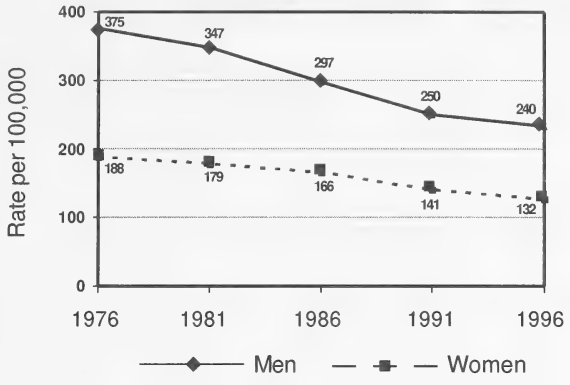
Goal 1 - Supplemental Information

Major Causes of Death in Alberta
(Standardized Mortality Rates per 100,000 Population)

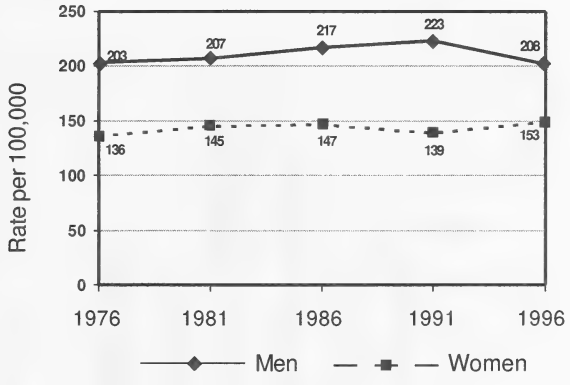
The three major causes of death in Alberta are heart disease, cancer, and respiratory-related ailments.

While deaths from heart disease have been declining, deaths from cancer remain relatively unchanged.

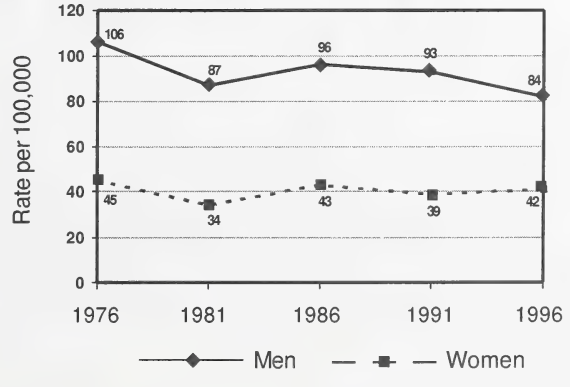
Heart Disease



Cancer



Respiratory Disease



Source: 1976-1991 Statistics Canada - Health Status Indicators, 1997 Version. 1996 - Alberta Deaths, Alberta Vital Statistics (March 1998); Population = Alberta Health Registration as at March 31, 1996.

Core Measure: Health Status

Target

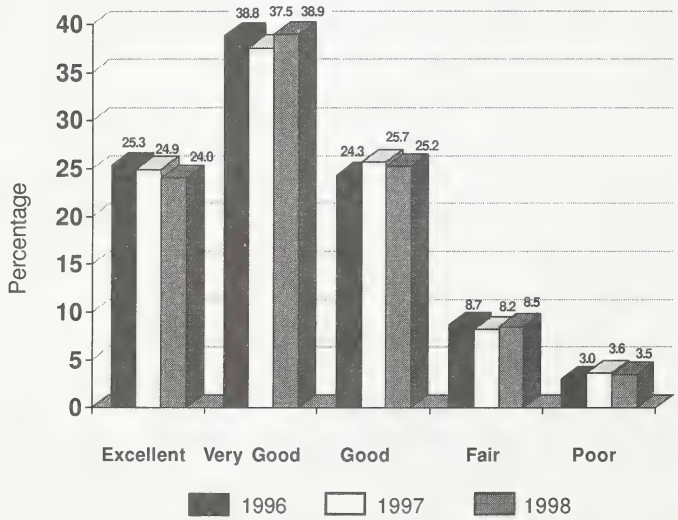
Reduce the percentage of Albertans, particularly in the older age categories, who rate their health status as only fair or poor.
We want to have the lowest percentage of residents reporting fair or poor health status compared with other provinces.

Results

In 1998 there was a slight increase in the percentage of Albertans rating their health as fair, and slight decrease in those rating their health as poor. While there was a slight decrease in the percentage reporting excellent health, there was a corresponding increase in those reporting very good health. More older Albertans reported poor to fair health than younger Albertans.

In 1994-95, except for British Columbia and Newfoundland, fewer Albertans reported poor or fair health than residents in other provinces.

Albertan's Health Status Compared to Others Own Age



Source: Alberta Health Survey, 1996, 1997, 1998.

Self-reported health status is a good indicator of the health and well-being of Albertans and is becoming accepted across Canada as a means of reporting on population health. This measure reports the degree to which we feel healthy compared to others our own age. How people rate their own health is affected by a variety of factors including chronic disease, disability, temporary illness and mental health.

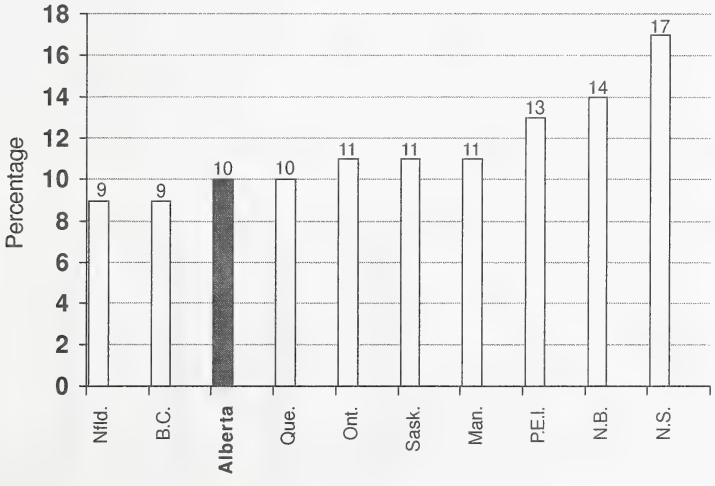
Methodology

Data is collected through a public telephone survey of 4,000 randomly selected Alberta households conducted for Alberta Health. The question used to seek self-reported health status is; *In general, compared with other people your age, would you say your health is...?.*

Key Strategies for Goal 1

- ensure all Albertans, young and old, have access to quality health services when they need them. — *Health*
- get the best value from public dollars through reduced administration and effective and efficient management. — *Health*
- provide more services in communities and in people's homes where they need them. — *Health*
- streamline and simplify the health system, reduce duplication and ensure better coordination of services. — *Health*
- provide more emphasis on education, prevention of illness and injury, and promotion of healthy, active lifestyles. — *Community Development, Health, Labour*

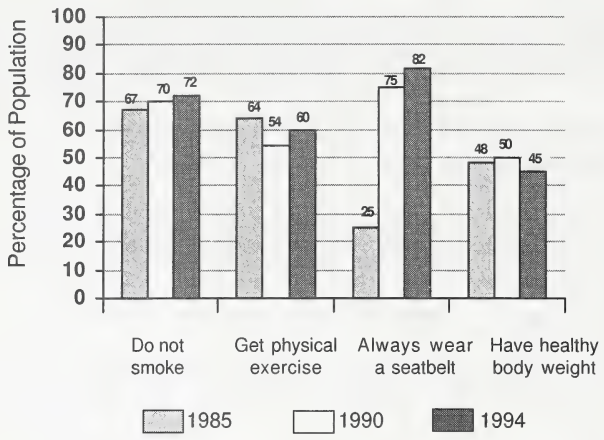
Fair or Poor Health Status by Province (1994-95)



Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey 1994-95

Percentage of Albertans Participating in Healthy Behaviour

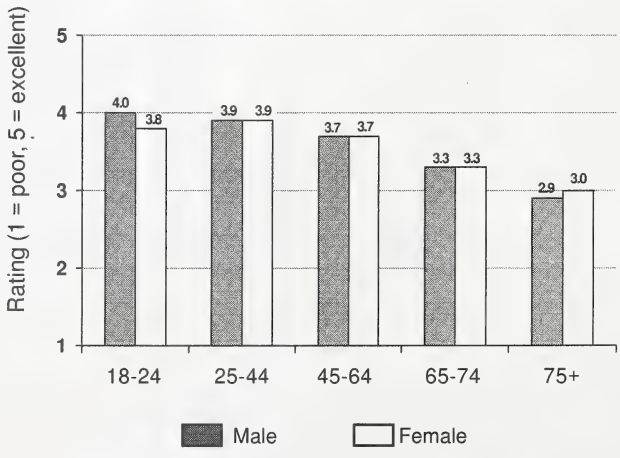
Healthy lifestyles contribute to longevity and improved quality of life. This chart shows the percentage of Albertans who report participating in healthy behaviour.



Source: Health Promotion Survey (1985, 1990); National Population Health Survey (1994-95)

Average Level of Self-reported Health by Age and Sex

The average rating for self-reported health by age and sex (1 = poor health and 5 = excellent). Average health status decreases with age from "very good" (4) to "good" (3). Men and women report similar ratings of their own health.

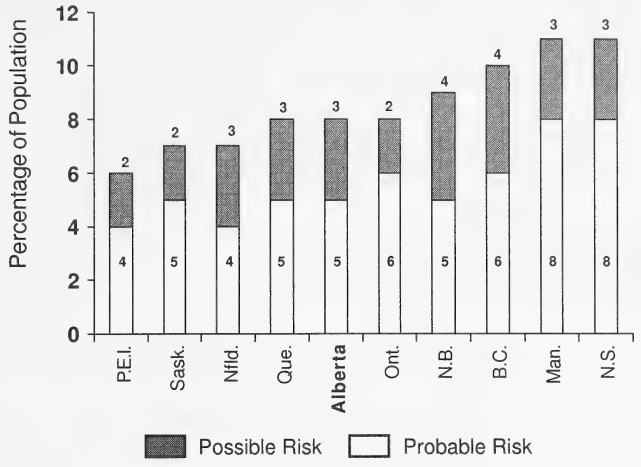


Source: Alberta Health Survey 1998

Risk of Clinical Depression by Province, 1994-95

Mental health is an important component of overall wellness and depression is one of the more common mental health ailments. Even mild depression can be a disabling condition. Some depressed people require hospitalization and are at higher risk for suicide.

This graph shows the combined total of possible and probable risk for depression among persons 12 years and over by province. These results indicate that when the survey was conducted, about 8% of Albertans may have been suffering from depression.



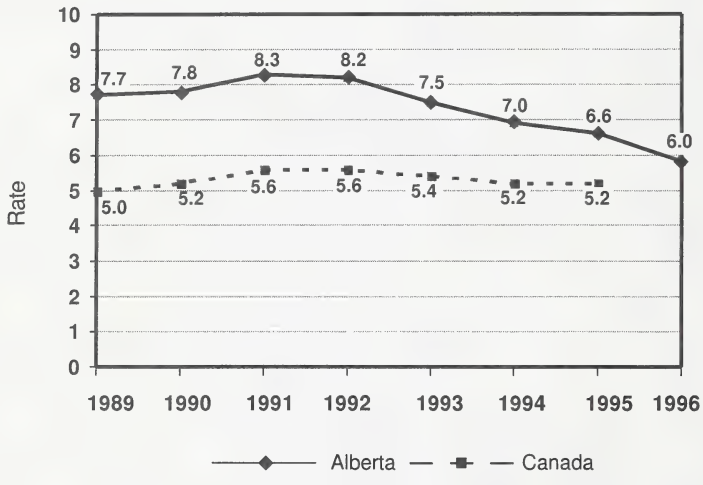
Source: Statistics Canada, National Population Health Survey, 1994-95

Core Measure: Births to Mothers Under Age 18

Target Reduce the rate of births to mothers under the age of 18 to a level equal to or below the national average by the year 2005.

Results The rate of births to mothers under the age of 18 in Alberta declined by 28% between 1991 and 1996. The gap between Alberta's rate of births and the national average is narrowing; however, in 1995 it remained about 27% above the national average.

Births to Mothers Under Age 18
(Rate per 1,000 females aged 10-17)



Source: Alberta Treasury, derived from Alberta Vital Statistics birth data and Statistics Canada population data.

Children born to young mothers face the risk of a difficult start to life. Studies show that young mothers are less likely to complete high school, are more likely to form single parent households and many are at risk of becoming dependent upon welfare. The majority of Alberta's low-income families are single parent families, and single parent families headed by a female have an average income about 44% less than male single parent families (see box on facing page). Children born to these young mothers are therefore more likely to experience poverty than children in two-parent or male single parent families.

Methodology

Measures the rate of births to Alberta mothers under the age of 18 and compares it to the national average. The birth rate was previously reported per 100,000 population but is now reported per 1,000 females aged 10-17 years.

Goal 2 - Our children will be well cared for and safe.

Key Strategies for Goal 2

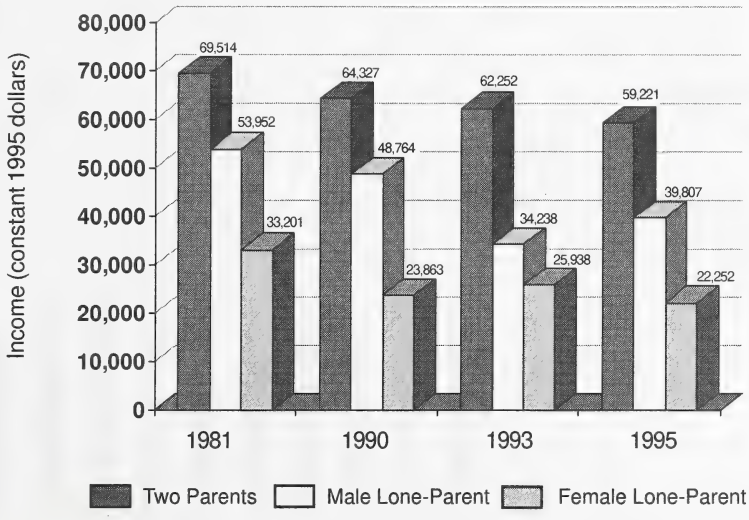
- redesign services to children and focus the efforts of government ministries, communities, agencies and families on keeping children safe and well.

Family and Social Services, Community Development, Education, Health, Justice

- target research on children's health and take specific action to meet children's health needs.

Education, Health

Average Income of Alberta Families with Children

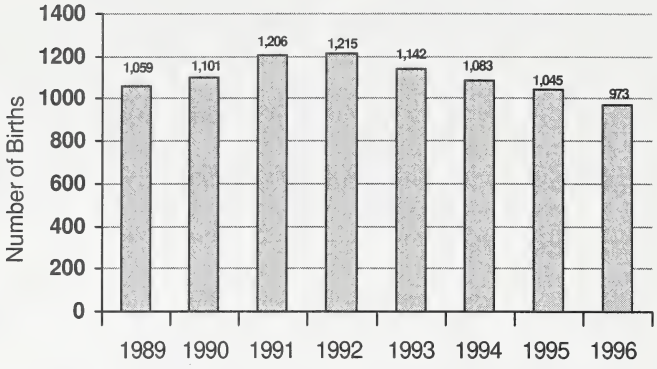


Source: 1995 data is from a special run by Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division provided to Alberta Treasury May 22, 1997. Data for 1981, 1990 and 1993 is from a similar special run completed for the Premier's Council in Support of Families.

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Total Births in Alberta to Mothers Under Age 18

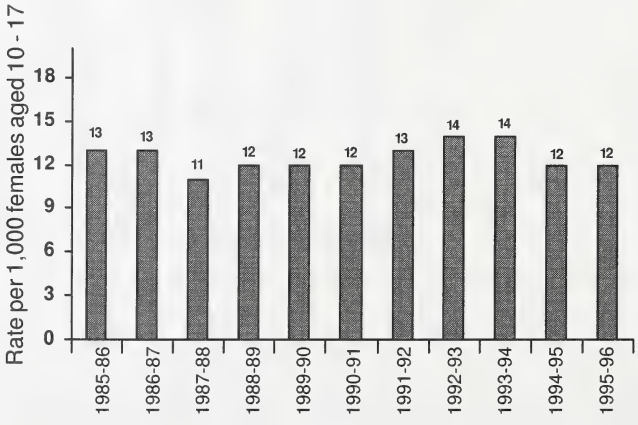
In 1996, the total number of births to mothers under the age of 18 was 973. This represents a 19% decline from 1991.



Source: Alberta Vital Statistics, Annual Reviews, 1996

Alberta Pregnancy Rate for Females Aged 10 - 17

The pregnancy rate for this age group dropped 14.3% from 1993-94 to 1995-96.



Source: Pregnancy data from Reproductive Health: Pregnancy Outcomes, Alberta Health, August, 1997. Population data from Statistics Canada.

Notes: Age-specific pregnancy rates are the number of events (live births, stillbirth, and therapeutic abortions) per 1,000 females in that age group. Spontaneous abortions are not captured.

Core Measure: Educational Attainment

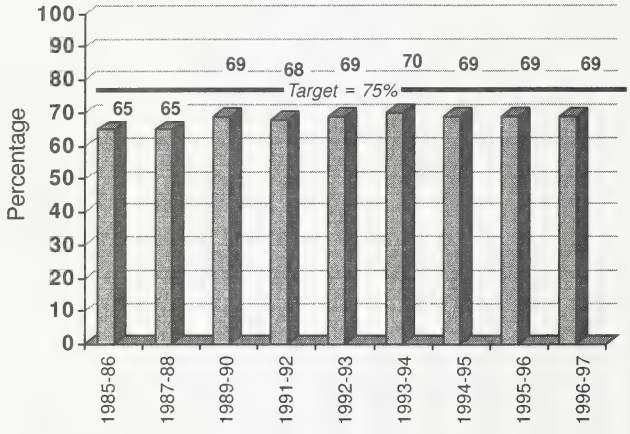
Target

By 1996-97, increase the percentage of students entering grade 9 who complete high school within six years to 75%.

Results

In 1996-97, the percentage of students completing high school within six years was 69%, virtually unchanged from previous years. Completion rates reflect students' educational experience over time. Therefore, more recent initiatives to improve high school completion rates have not had a significant impact yet. Recently announced initiatives intended to help young students succeed early on in school should prevent failure which contributes to students leaving school early. Improved labour market conditions may have also influenced some students to leave school without completing.

Percentage of Students Completing Within 6 Years of Entering Grade 9



Source: Alberta Education

This measure tracks the percentage of students entering grade 9 who complete high school within six years (students accepted into a post-secondary institution from high school without receiving a diploma are also included). Completing high school provides young people with the basic knowledge and skills they require to become independent (see also *Literacy and Numeracy Levels*). High school graduation is often a prerequisite for post-secondary education, and high school graduates have much lower unemployment rates than high school leavers (see also *Skill Development* supplemental information).

We also want our students to excel in terms of academic achievement. The performance of Alberta students on national and international achievement tests is included as supplemental information.

Methodology

Students entering grade 9 in Alberta each year are tracked over time to determine the proportion who complete a diploma, certificate or equivalent standing within 6 years.

Key Strategies for Goal 3

◆ set high standards to ensure that young people learn and acquire essential skills.	*Education*
◆ establish intensive early skills programs for students needing extra help with reading in kindergarten to grade 2.	*Education*
◆ establish a teacher aide program for grades 1 to 6 to increase classroom supports and to enhance opportunities for students.	*Education*
◆ provide clear information to students, parents and schools on what is expected from students and what they have achieved.	*Education*
◆ work with school authorities to improve mathematics achievement of students in grades 7 to 12.	*Education*
◆ implement updated requirements for teacher preparation, certification and ongoing evaluation.	*Education*
◆ expand English as a second language programs to include Canadian-born students whose first language is other than English.	*Education*
◆ work with employers and educators to ensure young people understand what is needed and expected in the workplace.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*
◆ report regularly to Albertans on student achievement and other results of Alberta's education system.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*
◆ ensure Albertans have access to affordable adult learning opportunities.	*Advanced Education and Career Development*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Goal 3 - Supplemental Information

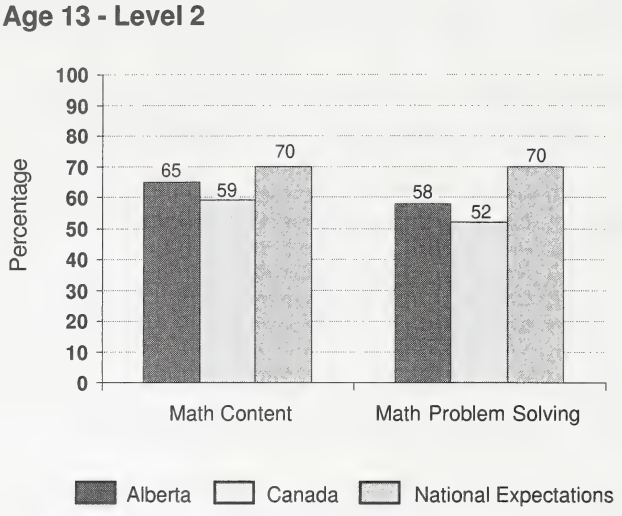
School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP)

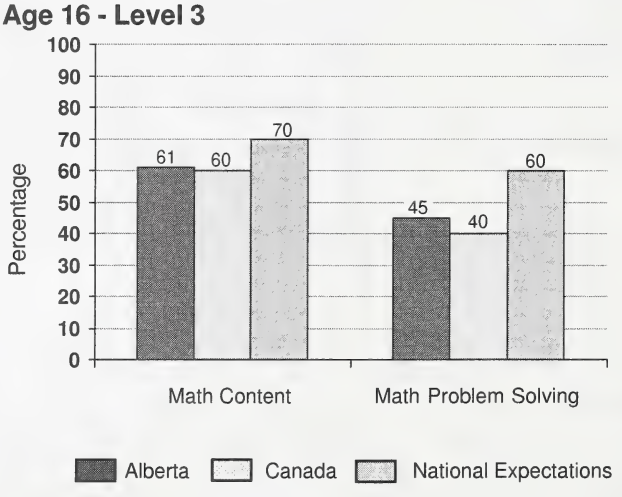
The SAIP tests a representative sample of 13 and 16 year old students in each province and territory in language arts, mathematics and science every 3 years. In 1997, students were tested in mathematics. These graphs indicate the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

SAIP tests are designed to measure cross-Canada learning expectations. The SAIP assessments are developed with extensive involvement of classroom teachers and government education personnel across the country.

The test results review process also allows for input from other educators, as well as representatives of business and community groups.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards





Source: Council of Ministers of Education, Canada 1997.

Note: These graphs present results from the SAIP. The graphs show the percent meeting or exceeding standards. Results are reported in relation to five levels of achievement. Level 2 is the age 13 standard and Level 3 is the age 16 standard.

Goal 3 - Supplemental Information

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) Results

The Third International Mathematics and Science Study, conducted between 1994 and 1996, included over half a million students. Forty countries participated in the Grade 8 TIMSS, 26 countries in the Grade 4 TIMSS, and 24 in the Population Three TIMSS (final year of high school). Strict guidelines ensured that students tested were representative of each country. In Alberta, 2,241 students participated in the Grade 8 study, 2,017 in grade 4, and 1,533 in the population three study (Grade 12). Alberta oversampled so that provincial data could be compared to Canadian and international data.

This table compares Alberta and Canada student performance to that of students in other G-8 countries. Alberta results compare favourably with those of the G-8 countries.

	Grade 4 Math	Grade 4 Science	Grade 8 Math	Grade 8 Science	Pop. Three Math	Pop. Three Physics	Pop. Three Math and Science Literacy
Alberta	★	★	★	★	★	=	★
Canada	=	★	★	★	★	=	★
England	⇩	★	=	★			
France			★	⇩	★	⇩	=
Germany			=	★	⇩	=	=
Italy					⇩		⇩
Japan	★	★	★	★			
Russia			★	★	★	=	⇩
United States	★	★	⇩	★	⇩	⇩	⇩

LEGEND	
★	Scored significantly higher than international average.
=	Scored essentially the same as international average.
⇩	Scored significantly lower than international average.
	Blank cell indicates country did not participate in particular TIMSS test.

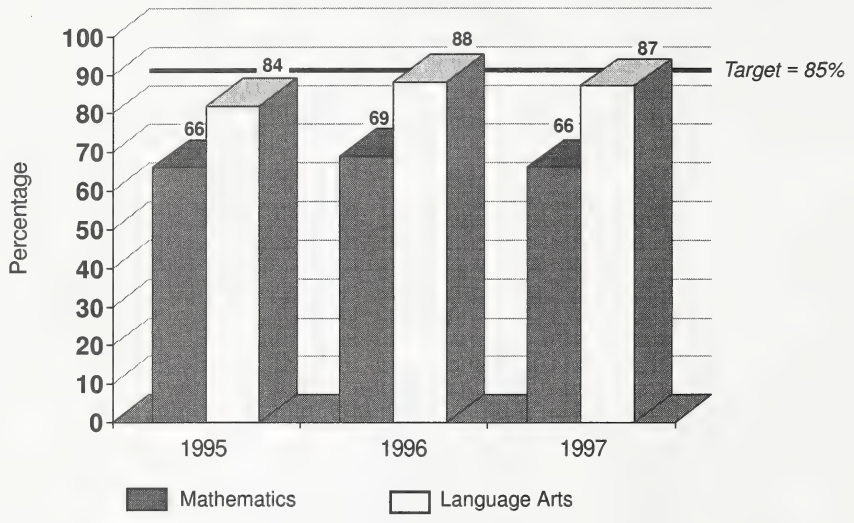
Source: Third International Mathematics and Science Study TIMSS - Canada Report, Vol. 4: Senior Secondary; Executive Summary, 1998.

Core Measure: Literacy and Numeracy Levels

Target 85% of all Grade 9 students achieve the acceptable standard on provincial achievement tests in mathematics and language arts.

Results The percentage of Alberta students achieving the acceptable standard in Grade 9 language arts in 1997 was 87%, surpassing the provincial expectation of 85%. In mathematics, 66% of students achieved the acceptable standard, the same level as in 1995, but below the provincial expectation.

Percentage of Grade 9 Students Achieving the Acceptable Standard



Source: Alberta Education

Part of helping Albertans become independent is ensuring that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in a changing economy and workforce. An essential component of this is having the necessary literacy and numeracy skills to function in society.

We have chosen to use the percentage of Grade 9 students achieving acceptable standards on provincial achievement tests in mathematics and language arts, as adult literacy surveys are not conducted regularly. Students who achieve the standard have the necessary competencies to become literate and numerate. Results from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey are presented as supplemental information.

Methodology

Students normally take the grade 9 provincial achievement test at age 14 to 15. Provincial achievement tests reflect the curriculum and are developed with extensive involvement from classroom teachers, and input from other educators, business and community groups, to ensure that the standards reflect public expectations. Data prior to 1995 is not comparable due to changes in testing and methodology.

Key Strategies for Goal 4

◆ continue efforts to get social assistance clients into the workforce by improving training programs and providing appropriate financial and health benefits.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Family and Social Services*
◆ collaborate with other ministries to develop and implement a new human resource strategy designed to help Albertans reach their full potential.	*Advanced Education and Career Development*
◆ ensure that the latest information on career development opportunities, labour market demands, and workplace skill requirements is available to young people, parents and adults wanting to upgrade their skills in the marketplace.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*
◆ work with employers and educators to create more opportunities for young people in the workplace.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*
◆ provide social housing as transitional support that helps Albertans in need to become more self-reliant.	*Municipal Affairs*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Goal 4 - Supplemental Information

1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS)

The following information shows the percentage of the population of Canada at the five literacy levels measured by IALS in 1994. The Canadian part of the survey consisted of face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of 5,660 individuals aged 16 and over. The test involved a series of tasks designed to assess an individual's ability to use printed material commonly encountered at work, at home, and in the community.

Definitions:

Prose Literacy - the ability to understand and use information from texts such as editorials, news stories, articles and fiction.

Document Literacy - the ability to locate and use information from documents such as job applications, payroll forms, transportation schedules, maps, tables, and graphs.

Quantitative Literacy - the ability to perform arithmetic functions such as balancing a chequebook, calculating a tip, or completing an order form. This scale is similar to the numeracy scale used in the 1989 Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities (LSUDA) Survey.

The IALS categorizes adults into 5 levels of literacy:

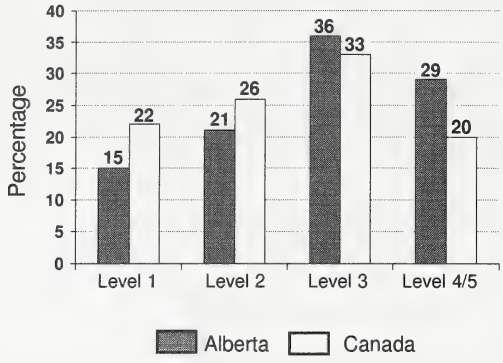
Level 1 - Have great difficulty with literacy; they have few basic skills available to decode and work with text.

Level 2 - Have limited skills; they can read but they do not read well.

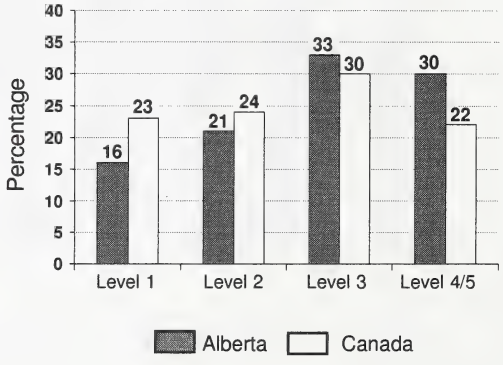
Level 3 - Possess basic skills viewed as being adequate for working in many situations.

Level 4 and 5 - Have a wide range of literacy skills and have many strategies for dealing with complex materials.

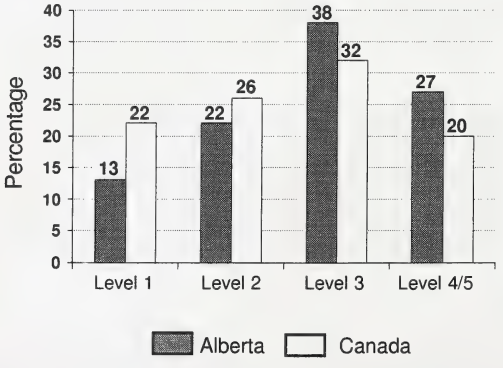
Prose Literacy



Document Literacy



Quantitative Literacy



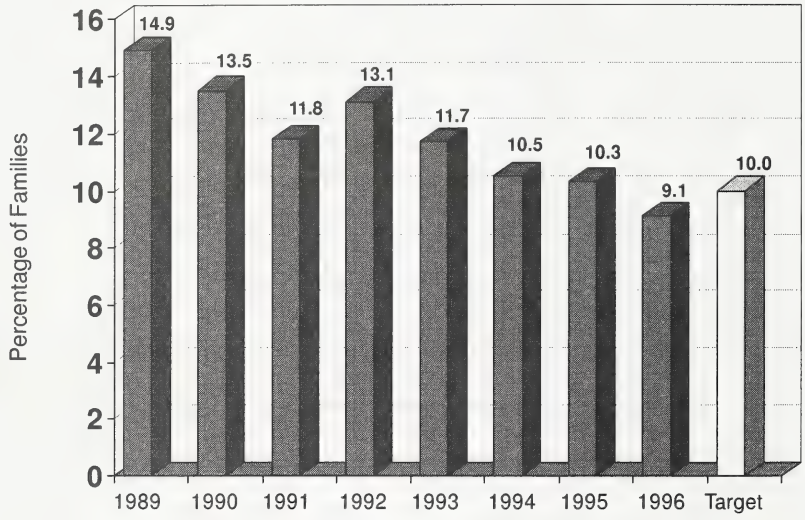
Source: Statistics Canada Cat. No. 89-551-XPE

Core Measure: Family Income Distribution

Target Reduce the percentage of households with family income under $20,000 to 10 percent by the year 2000.

Results The percentage of Alberta family households with income less than $20,000 (in current dollars) declined in 1996 to 9.1%, exceeding the target of 10%.

Percentage of Alberta Families with Income Under $20,000



Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 13-207, Table 2

The average income of families and the distribution of income amongst various income groups is an indicator of the relative financial well-being of Albertans. This measure provides information on the incidence of low income amongst Alberta families and the distribution of families in low, medium, and high income groups.

Methodology

Based on Statistics Canada data on "economic families", defined as "a group of individuals sharing a common dwelling unit and related by blood, marriage (including common law relationships) or adoption." The average size of such a family unit for Alberta in 1995 was 3.09 persons. Economic family income consists of incomes received by all family members 15 years of age and over. The measure is shown in current dollars, as opposed to constant or inflation adjusted dollars.

Key Strategies for Goal 4

- continue efforts to get social assistance clients into the workforce by improving training programs and providing appropriate financial and health benefits. — *Advanced Education and Career Development, Family and Social Services*

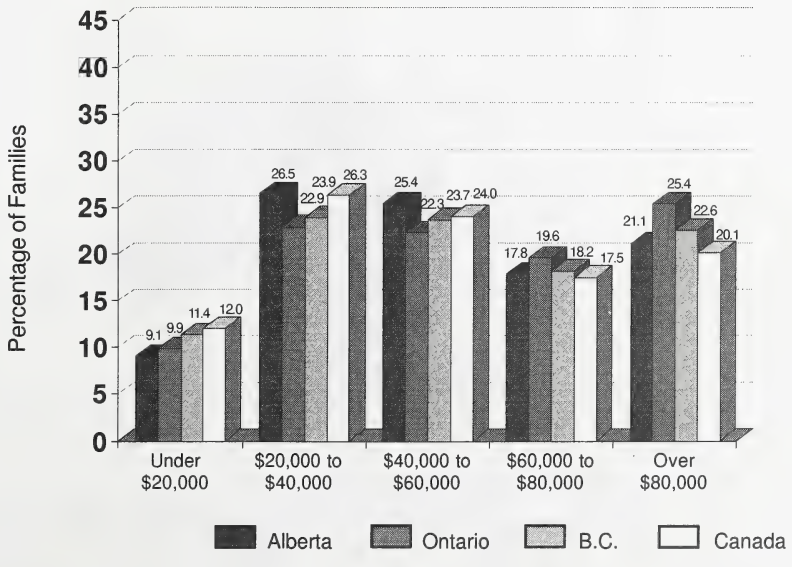
- collaborate with other ministries to develop and implement a new human resource strategy designed to help Albertans reach their full potential. — *Advanced Education and Career Development*

- ensure that the latest information on career development opportunities, labour market demands, and workplace skill requirements is available to young people, parents and adults wanting to upgrade their skills in the marketplace. — *Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*

- work with employers and educators to create more opportunities for young people in the workplace. — *Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*

- provide social housing as transitional support that helps Albertans in need to become more self-reliant. — *Municipal Affairs*

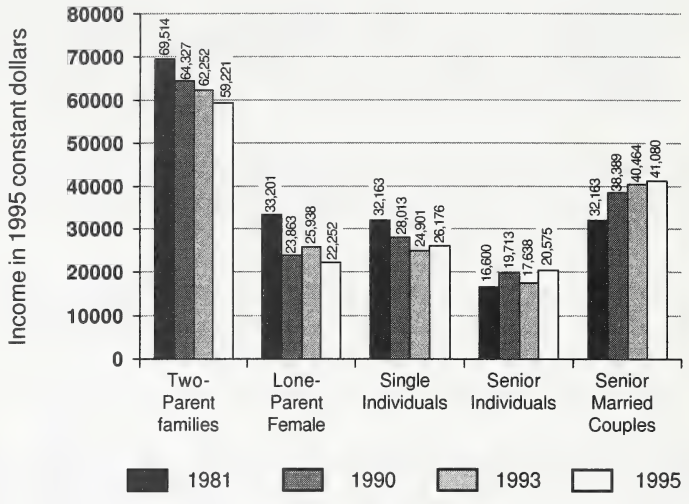
Family Income Distribution by Province (1996)



Source: Statistics Canada Cat. 13-207-XPB

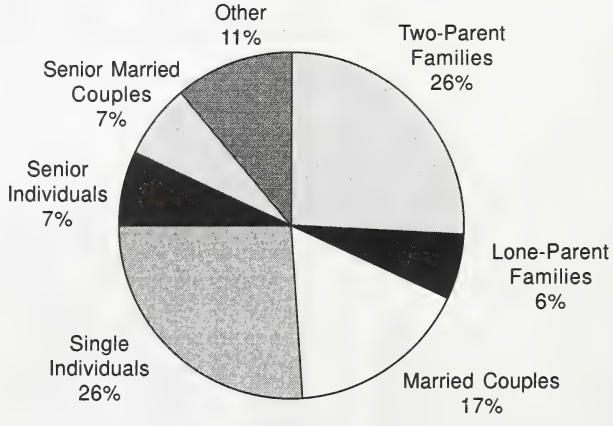
Annual Average Family Income by Family Type - 1981 to 1995

The first chart shows the average annual income for selected family types between 1981 and 1995 in constant (1995) dollars. Since 1981, average family income has declined by 15% for two-parent families with children, by 19% for non-elderly individuals, and by 33% for female single parents. Average income has risen by 24% for elderly individuals and by 28% for elderly married couples since 1981.



Source: 1995 data is from a special run by Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division provided to Alberta Treasury May 22, 1997. Data for 1981, 1990, and 1993 is from a similar special run completed for the Premiers's Council in Support of Families.

Percentage of Alberta Family Types in 1995



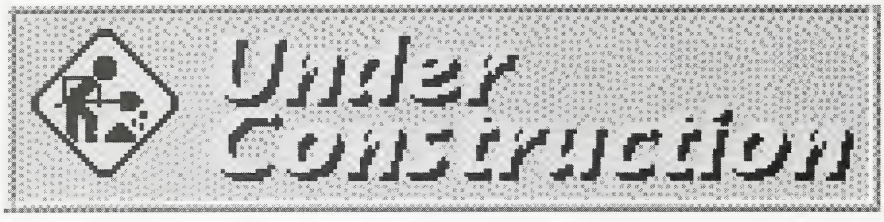
Source: Same as above chart.
Note: "Other" family type includes elderly families with children, married couples living with other relatives, and all other families not otherwise classified.

Goal 5 - Albertans not expected to support themselves fully will receive help.

Core Measure: Albertans Needing Help

Target To be determined.

Results New measure under development.



We would like all Albertans to be independent; however, some individuals require long-term financial assistance to meet their basic needs (food, clothing, shelter). Albertans potentially in need include lower income seniors, persons with disabilities, the homeless and single parent families.

Methodology

Goal 5 - *Albertans not expected to support themselves fully will receive help.*

Key Strategies for Goal 5

◆ redesign benefits to better assist those Albertans who are not expected to work and must have ongoing financial assistance.	*Family and Social Services*
◆ transfer responsibility for services for adults with developmental disabilities to community management boards so they get the services they need in their own communities.	*Family and Social Services*
◆ ensure that lower income seniors get the financial assistance they need through ongoing refinements to the Alberta Seniors' Benefit.	*Community Development*
◆ ensure that there is an adequate supply of social housing to meet the needs of communities.	*Municipal Affairs*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Performance Highlights

Prosperity . . . promoting prosperity for Albertans

A key role for government is to work with business, industry and Albertans to build a strong and prosperous province. Government does this by:

- creating a dynamic environment for growth in business, industry and jobs
- ensuring that Alberta has a highly skilled and productive workforce
- providing effective government that lives within its means
- building and maintaining an efficient system of roads, highways, utilities and public spaces, and
- promoting new ideas, innovation and research.

The following are the performance highlights for the twelve *Prosperity* measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

⇧ improved performance
▬ no significant change in performance from previous year
⬇ declining performance

⇧ **Gross Domestic Product** - The three-year average GDP growth rate was 6.0% in 1997, which is within the target range.

⇧ **Job Creation** - There were 44,200 net new jobs created in 1997. The biggest growth areas were manufacturing, trade and business services.

⇧ **Resource Wealth** - The three-year average GDP growth rate for Alberta's key resource industries was 8.2% in 1996 which is above the target range of 2% to 4%.

⇧ **Skill Development** - Alberta labour force productivity increased to $69,400 per employed person in 1997, exceeding our target of $65,400.

▬ **Adoption of New Technologies** - Alberta business funding of research and development (R&D) as a percentage of Canadian business R&D was 6.7% in 1995, down slightly from 1993.

▬ **Cost of Government** - Alberta per capita spending by government increased slightly to 92% of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces, but remained below our target of 95%.

▬ **Infrastructure Capacity (New measure)** - This measure replaces the Transportation to Export Markets measure. Initial results have been provided and a target will be set for next year.

⬇ **Taxation Load** - Albertans still enjoy the lowest overall tax burden on persons in Canada.

⇧ **Provincial Credit Rating** - Alberta's blended credit rating in 1997 was the highest among the provinces, achieving our target.

⇧ **Net Debt** - The province's net debt (excluding pension liabilities) continued to decline, decreasing by $2.6 billion to $1.1 billion as of March 31, 1998.

⬇ **Workplace Climate** - The rate of person-days lost to disputes increased significantly to 15.6 in 1997, primarily due to the Canada Safeway dispute. The rate of person-days lost to injuries also increased in 1997 to 30.7.

⇧ **Export Trade**- The value of Alberta's commodity exports to international markets continued to increase in 1997, rising to $33.3 billion.

While the performance results for the core measures in the *Prosperity* section are generally satisfactory, there are **some areas in which we would like to see improvement**, including:

- **Personal Tax Rates** - Although Alberta has the lowest overall tax burden on persons, Alberta now has the second lowest personal income tax rate in Canada, behind Ontario. Ontario reduced its personal tax rate to 40.5% as of July 1, 1998.

- **Private Sector Funding of Research and Development** - Alberta private sector funding of R&D as a percentage of total Canadian business spending on R&D remains well below the target of matching Alberta's share of Canada's GDP (11% in 1995).

- **Net Debt** - Net debt has decreased dramatically over the past four years, but Alberta still has an accumulated debt of over $13 billion.

- **Workplace Climate** - The rate of person-days lost to disputes increased significantly to 15.6 in 1997. The rate of person-days lost to injuries also increased in 1997, with the addition of new less experienced workers to the workforce.

Prosperity . . .

promoting prosperity for Alberta through:

- a dynamic environment for growth in business, industry and jobs
- a highly skilled and productive workforce
- new ideas, innovation and research
- an open and accountable government that lives within its means
- an efficient system of roads, highways, utilities and public spaces.

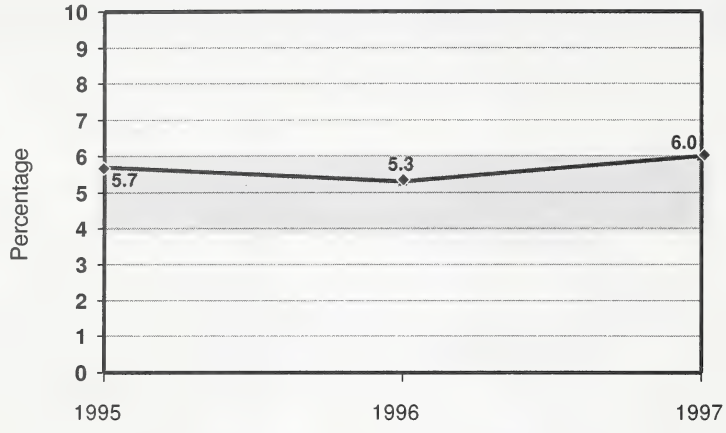
	Goal	Measures	Results
⇧	Albertans will have a prosperous economy.	**Gross Domestic Product**	Three-year average GDP growth of 6.0% in 1997 (target range 4 to 6%).
⇧		**Job Creation**	44,200 net new jobs in 1997.
⇧		**Resource Wealth**	Three-year average GDP growth of 8.2% in 1996 (target range of 2 to 4%).
⇧	Our workforce will be skilled and productive.	**Skill Development**	Productivity increased to $69,400 per employee in 1997.
-	Our businesses will capitalize on research.	**Adoption of New Technologies**	Alberta business R&D spending at 6.7% of Canadian business R&D (target of 11.0%).
-	Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.	**Cost of Government**	Per capita spending increased slightly to 92% of the other nine provinces' average.
-		**Infrastructure Capacity**	New measure.
⇩	Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.	**Taxation Load**	Lowest overall tax burden and second lowest personal income tax rate after Ontario.
⇧		**Provincial Credit Rating**	Highest rating among Canadian provinces.
⇧		**Net Debt**	Net debt, excluding pension liabilities, fell to $1.1 billion.
⇩	Alberta will have a fair and safe work environment.	**Workplace Climate**	Rate of person-days lost to disputes increased significantly to 15.6. Rate of person-days lost to injury increased to 30.7.
⇧	Alberta business will increase exports.	**Export Trade**	International exports increased by $1.6 billion to $33.3 billion in 1997.

Core Measure: Gross Domestic Product

Target Long term gross domestic product (in current dollars) growth rate of between 4% and 6%.

Results Alberta's three-year average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate was 6.0% in 1997, up from 1996 and within our target range of 4 to 6% growth.

Three-Year Average GDP Growth



Source: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury

GDP is a direct measure of the strength of Alberta's economy. It is a measure of goods and services produced in Alberta. Tracking this measure over time will show changes in the strength and resilience of Alberta's economy (see also *Job Creation*, *Resource Wealth* and *Export Trade*).

As we are interested in the longer-term growth trend for the Alberta economy, we have used a three-year average for GDP growth to smooth out some of the cyclical variations common to Alberta's economy.

Methodology

The three-year average growth rate is calculated using Statistics Canada data. The growth rate for each year is calculated and the rates are averaged over a three-year period. Statistics Canada has recently revised GDP figures, but only for 1992-1997. Due to this revision, prior years' results are not comparable.

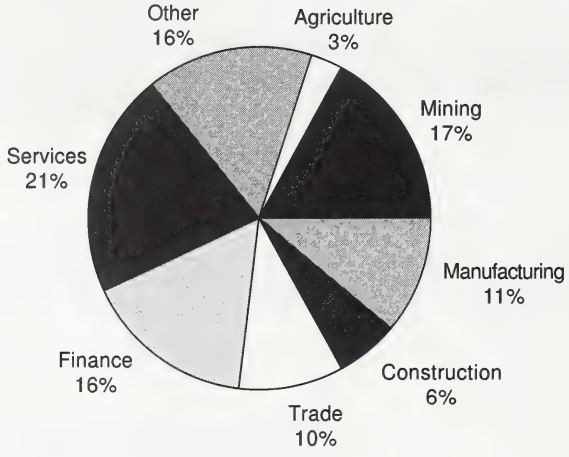
Key Strategies for Goal 6

◆ continue to promote the Alberta Advantage.	*All ministries*
◆ develop a globally competitive tax regime to encourage investment and economic activity.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology, Treasury*
◆ actively work with industry to attract domestic and international investment.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ support the expansion of Alberta's tourism industry and the promotion of Alberta as a world-renowned tourism destination.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development*
◆ encourage communities to create and implement viable local and regional economic development plans with key partners.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development*
◆ improve the ability of start-up and early stage companies to access the capital they need to get their businesses up and running.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ facilitate the growth of value-added industries, especially in agri-food and energy sectors.	*Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Energy*
◆ remove barriers to national and international trade so Alberta businesses can expand and compete in new markets.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Alberta's Gross Domestic Product by Industry
(Current Dollars)

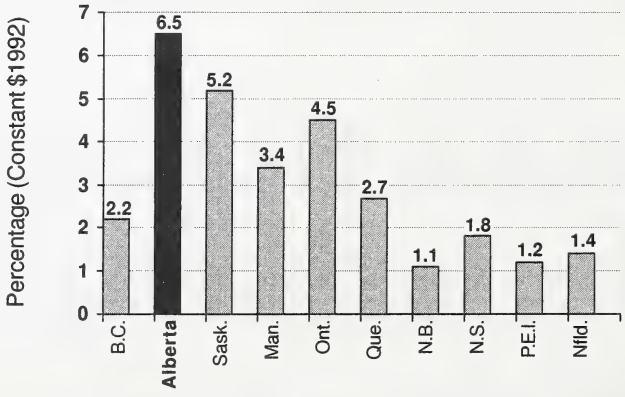
This graph indicates the percentage contribution to provincial GDP by various industry sectors in 1996.



Source: Alberta Economic Accounts, 1996

Alberta's Real GDP Growth Compared to Other Provinces

The growth of Alberta's economy is compared to that of the other provinces for 1997.



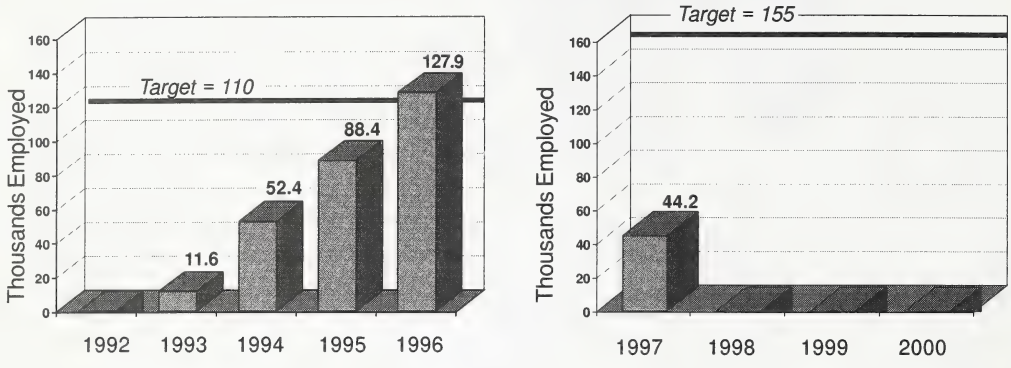
Source: Statistics Canada

Core Measure: Job Creation

Target Create 155,000 new jobs over four years to December 2000.

Results Alberta continues to enjoy strong job growth. There were 44,200 new jobs created in 1997.

Cumulative Net Employment Growth



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The availability of employment opportunities is a top priority for Albertans. This measure shows the net number of jobs created in Alberta's economy on an annual average basis and is one indicator of the strength of the economy (see also *Gross Domestic Product, Resource Wealth* and *Export Trade*). Job creation increases domestic demand, fueling the economy and reducing the need for government transfers.

A strong economy also increases employment opportunities for Albertans, enabling them to benefit from the province's economic growth.

Methodology

Statistics Canada obtains information on employment growth as part of its monthly Labour Force Survey. Using 1992 as a base, we calculate net employment growth from that point. We have adjusted the basis used for calculating job growth from month to month to an annual average basis, which is the standard method for tracking job growth.

Goal 6 - Alberta will have a prosperous economy.

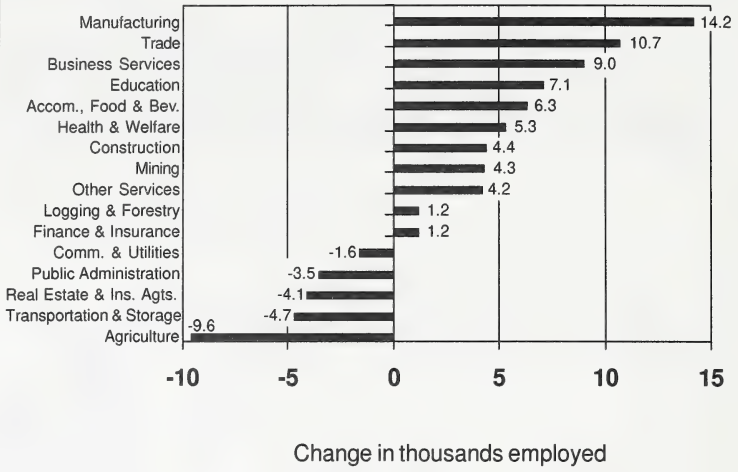
Key Strategies for Goal 6

◆ continue to promote the Alberta Advantage.	*All ministries*
◆ develop a globally competitive tax regime to encourage investment and economic activity.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology, Treasury*
◆ actively work with industry to attract domestic and international investment.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ support the expansion of Alberta's tourism industry and the promotion of Alberta as a world-renowned tourism destination.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development*
◆ encourage communities to create and implement viable local and regional economic development plans with key partners.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development*
◆ improve the ability of start-up and early stage companies to access the capital they need to get their businesses up and running.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ facilitate the growth of value-added industries, especially in agri-food and energy sectors.	*Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Energy*
◆ remove barriers to national and international trade so Alberta businesses can expand and compete in new markets.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Alberta Employment Growth by Industry - 1997

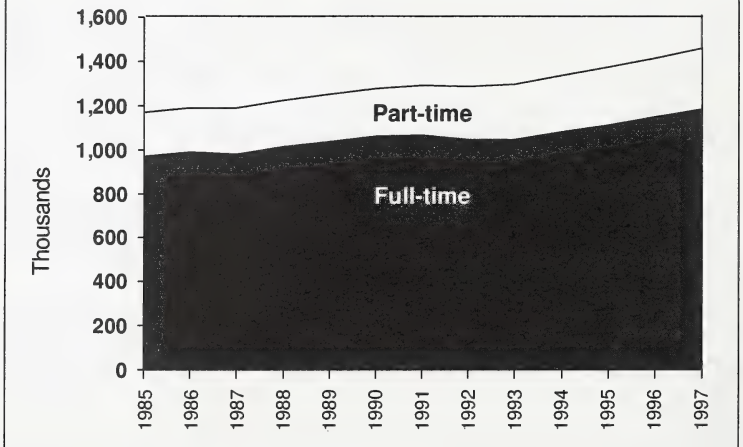
This chart shows the change in the number of jobs created by various industrial sectors during 1997. The manufacturing, trade, and business services sectors had the highest growth rates. Employment declined in the agriculture, transportation and storage and real estate and insurance agents sectors of the economy.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.
Note: Numbers may not add to total employment owing to rounding of industry numbers.

Full-time and Part-time Employment in Alberta

This chart shows full-time and part-time employment growth between 1985 and 1997, on an annual basis. In 1997, full-time employment represented 81.3% of total employment. Part-time employment represented 18.7% in 1997, up slightly from 1985 (17.2%).



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Goal 6 - Alberta will have a prosperous economy.

Core Measure: Resource Wealth

NOTE: **This measure will become supplemental information to the *Gross Domestic Product* measure next year.**

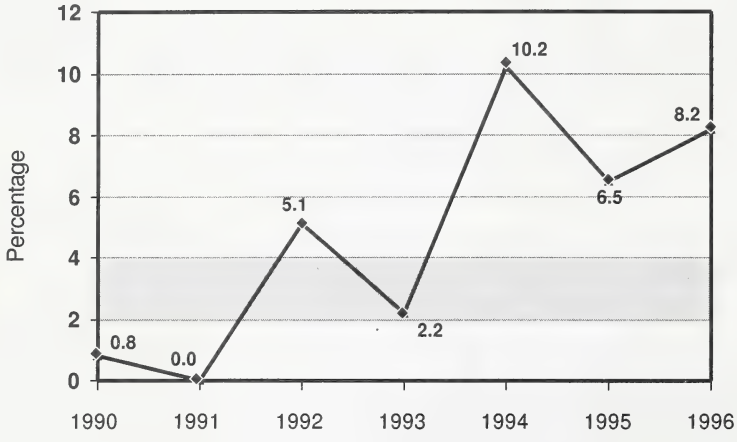
Target

An economic growth rate of 2% to 4% per year (GDP in current dollars) for Alberta's oil and natural gas, agriculture and forestry industries.

Results

Alberta's three-year average GDP growth rate was 8.2% in 1996, up from 1995 and above our target range of 2 to 4% growth.

Three-Year Average GDP Growth



Source: Alberta Economic Accounts (derived from Statistics Canada data)

Alberta's natural resources are the foundation of the provincial economy. Over the past 10 years, our oil and gas, agriculture and forestry industries have accounted for about 17% of provincial GDP on average (see also supplemental information). This measure provides an indicator of the economic importance of Alberta's renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Healthy resource industries are key to the province's long term economic prosperity (see also *Resource Sustainability*).

Methodology

The Alberta Economic Accounts uses Statistics Canada data to provide information on the economic output (GDP) of the oil and natural gas, agriculture, and forestry (includes logging, wood, and paper and allied products) industries. The growth rate for each year is calculated and the rates are averaged over a three-year period.

Goal 6 - Alberta will have a prosperous economy.

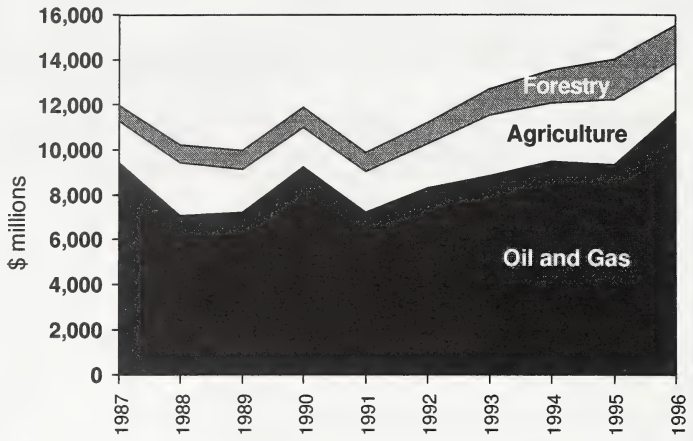
Key Strategies for Goal 6

◆ continue to promote the Alberta Advantage.	*All ministries*
◆ develop a globally competitive tax regime to encourage investment and economic activity.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology, Treasury*
◆ actively work with industry to attract domestic and international investment.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ support the expansion of Alberta's tourism industry and the promotion of Alberta as a world-renowned tourism destination.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development*
◆ encourage communities to create and implement viable local and regional economic development plans with key partners.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development*
◆ improve the ability of start-up and early stage companies to access the capital they need to get their businesses up and running.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ facilitate the growth of value-added industries, especially in agri-food and energy sectors.	*Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Energy*
◆ remove barriers to national and international trade so Alberta businesses can expand and compete in new markets.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

GDP of Resource Sector in Alberta (Current Dollars)

Growth in the value of the resource sector has been on an upward trend over the past few years, primarily driven by the oil and gas industry.

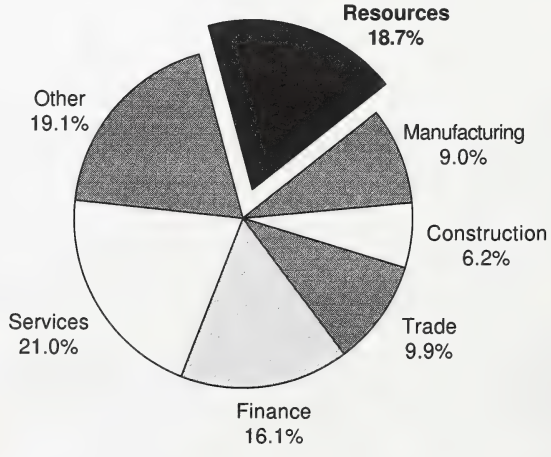


	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Oil and Gas	9,413	7,028	7,178	9,219	7,212	8,264	9,290	9,973	9,827	11,706
Agriculture	1,848	2,361	1,930	1,723	1,810	1,959	1,862	1,867	2,082	2,165
Forestry	667	776	845	920	830	903	1,144	1,328	1,511	1,634
TOTAL	11,928	10,165	9,953	11,862	9,852	11,126	12,296	13,168	13,420	15,505

Source: Alberta Economic Accounts derived from Statistics Canada data.

Resource Sector Share of Provincial GDP (1996)

The resource sector continues to represent a significant portion of the provincial economy. The resource sector accounted for almost 19% of provincial GDP in 1996.



Source: Alberta Economic Accounts, 1996

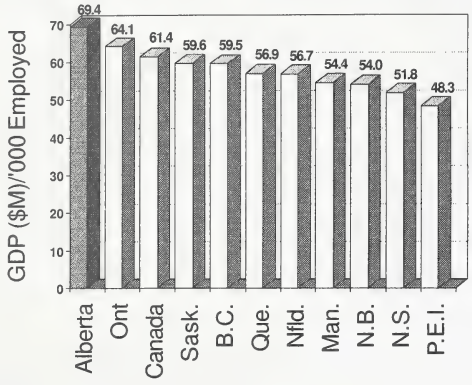
Goal 7 - Our workforce will be skilled and productive.

Core Measure: Skill Development

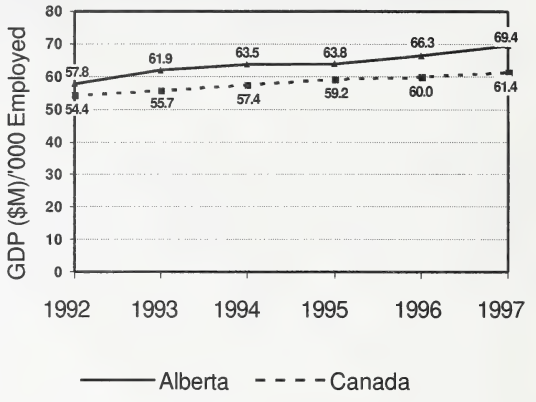
Target Alberta's labour productivity (GDP per employed person) will reach $65,400 by 1999.

Results Alberta's labour productivity increased by about $3,100 in 1997, reaching $69,400 and exceeding our target. As well, our labour productivity remained the highest in the country.

Provincial Labour Productivity (1997)



Alberta and Canada Labour Productivity



Source: Statistics Canada: Cat. Nos. 13-213 and 17-201.

Alberta businesses and industries need to remain competitive in markets around the world. This requires a highly skilled and productive work force and an effective match between skill development and skill demand (see also *Educational Attainment* and *Literacy and Numeracy Levels*). Labour productivity is one indicator of the effectiveness of this match.

To maintain a highly skilled workforce will require ongoing investment in training and education. *People and Prosperity*, Alberta's human resource development strategy, describes how we will support Albertans to contribute to and share in Alberta's economic prosperity.

Methodology

Uses Statistics Canada data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and total employment. GDP is divided by total employment. A revision in GDP figures for 1992-1997 by Statistics Canada has contributed to an increase in overall labour productivity.

Goal 7 - Our workforce will be skilled and productive.

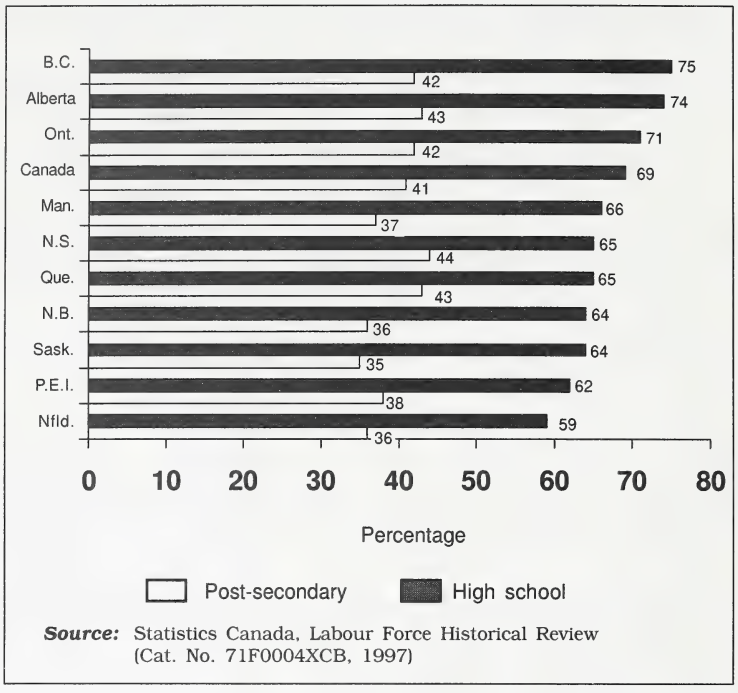
Key Strategies for Goal 7

◆ improve Albertans' ability to enter the workforce and keep pace with changing skills.	*Advanced Education and Career Development Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development,*
◆ remove barriers that prevent people from moving easily from job to job or place to place in order to work.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Advanced Education and Career Development, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*
◆ expand opportunities for youth through apprenticeship and industry training.	*Advanced Education and Career Development*
◆ develop and implement initiatives to assist young people to learn about careers that do not need post-secondary education but do require specific skills.	*Education*
◆ expand young people's technological skills through new curriculum standards for schools.	*Education*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Highest Level of Schooling Achieved - Population Aged 15 and Older (1997)

An indicator of the skill level of the population is the percentage of the population aged 15 and older with at least high school completion. This graph shows the percentage of the population who have completed high school, or have completed a post-secondary education.

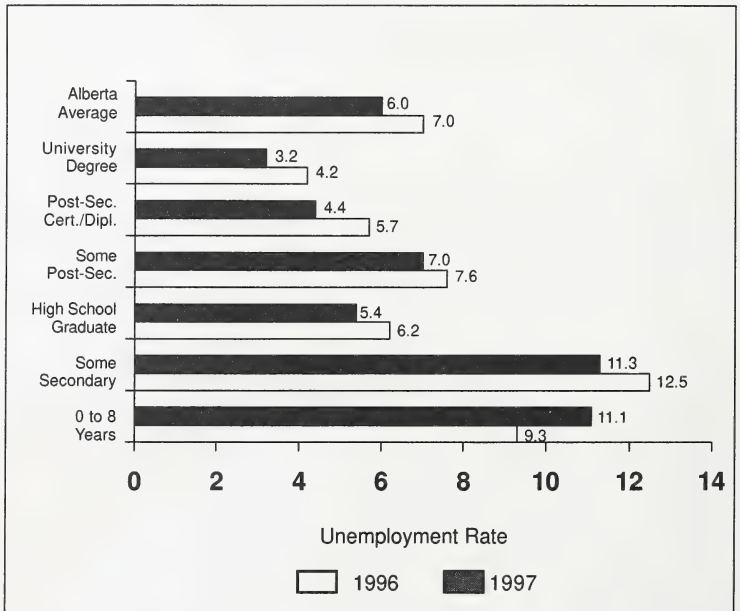


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review (Cat. No. 71F0004XCB, 1997)

Unemployment Rate by Highest Level of Schooling Achieved

University graduates have the lowest rate of unemployment among educational attainment categories. In 1997, unemployment among university graduates was 3.2%. This was followed by Albertans with post-secondary certificates or diplomas (including trades journeymen) at 4.4%.

Unemployment rates among those with 0-8 years of education and those who have completed some secondary schooling were above the provincial average; they stood at 11.1% and 11.3% respectively in 1997.



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Historical Review (Cat. No. 71F0004XCB, 1997)

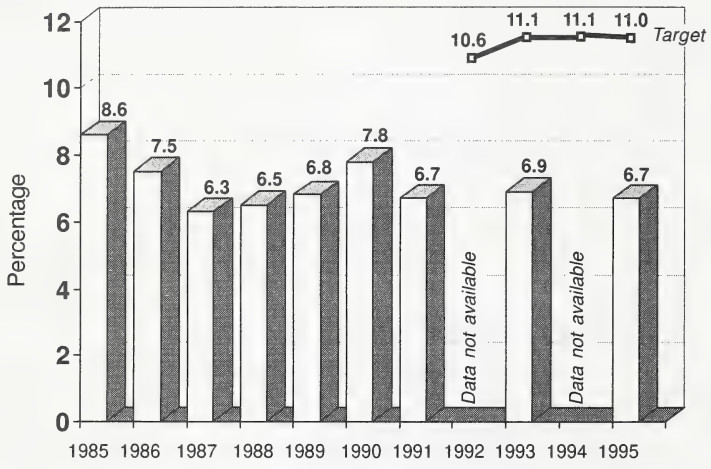
Goal 8 - Our businesses will capitalize on research.

Core Measure: Adoption of New Technologies

Target Alberta business spending on research and development (R&D), as a percentage of Canadian business R&D spending, will equal Alberta's share of national GDP. In 1995, Alberta's share of Canada's GDP was 11%.

Results Alberta business funding of R&D was 6.7% of Canadian business R&D in 1995, down from 1993 and still below the target. Meeting the target would require about a 65% increase in research spending by Alberta businesses.

Alberta Business R&D as a Percentage of Canadian Business R&D Spending



Source: Statistics Canada Service Bulletin Science Statistics Vol. 21, No. 8, Table 7

A cornerstone of Alberta's economic strategy is to increase the proportion of products and services offered by Alberta businesses which incorporate leading-edge technologies. Such products and services command a higher value in world markets and will contribute to increased prosperity. Leading edge technologies can also enable greater recovery, lower cost production or more efficient utilization of available resources (see also *Resource Sustainability*).

To remain competitive in the long term, Alberta businesses need to engage in the development and adoption of new technologies.

Methodology

Statistics Canada's Service Bulletin Science Statistics collects data on research and development expenditure performed and funded by business enterprises. Our measure uses the statistics on the amount of research and development funded by business.

Goal 8 - Our businesses will capitalize on research.

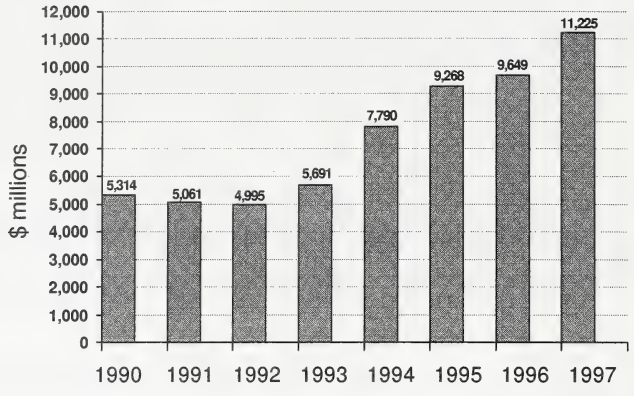
Key Strategies for Goal 8

◆ define and take action on key science and technology priorities to expand Alberta's economy.	*Science, Research and Information Technology, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Energy*
◆ use technology in targeted sectors to expand Alberta's value-added industries.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ expand Alberta's focus on basic research and technology.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ expand the number of research and technology activities that result in viable commercial products, processes and services.	*Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ encourage the development of private sector laboratories in the areas of food production and processing.	*Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Science, Research and Information Technology*
◆ integrate technology into schools and post-secondary education.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Education*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Alberta Manufacturing Shipments - High Knowledge Sectors

Success in establishing greater growth in the high knowledge manufacturing sectors is an indication of Alberta's ability to compete in value-added markets. This chart shows the value of manufacturing shipments in the high knowledge sector. An increasing value of shipments suggests that the volume of goods produced with newer technologies is increasing. High knowledge manufacturing sectors include: plastic products, machinery, transportation equipment, electrical and electronics products, and chemical and chemical products.



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Matrix 9578).

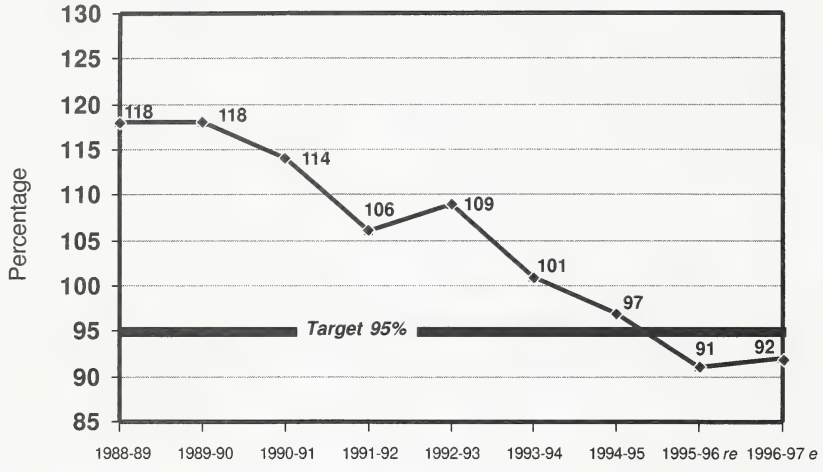
- Goal 9 - Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.

Core Measure: Cost of Government

Target Alberta Government expenditures to remain 5 percent below the average of the other nine provinces.

Results Alberta Government expenditure increased slightly to 92% of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces, better than the target of 95%.

Per Capita Alberta Government Expenditure as a Percentage of the Other Nine Provinces



Source: Statistics Canada (Financial Management Statistics) and Alberta Treasury
Notes: e = estimate
re = revised estimate
In 1997-98, Statistics Canada - Financial Management Statistics revised its provincial expenditure categories and reported expenditures for 1988-89 onward using the new categories.

The level of government expenditures is an indicator of the fiscal responsibility of the province. This measure compares the Alberta Government's per capita expenditure with the average of the other nine provinces.

Methodology

Expresses the per capita cost of government as a percentage of the average per capita expenditure of the other nine provinces.

-Goal 9 - Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.

Key Strategies for Goal 9

- promote cooperative initiatives among business and industry, government and municipalities to address the needs for infrastructure development.

  Transportation and Utilities, Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Municipal Affairs, Public Works, Supply and Services

- make strategic improvements to key highway routes to improve trade, including the North-South Trade Corridor.

  Transportation and Utilities

- work with local governments to strengthen rural and urban transportation partnerships and ensure that Alberta has a safe and efficient system of roads.

  Municipal Affairs, Transportation and Utilities

- set standards and monitor safety of highways, motor carriers and natural gas distribution systems.

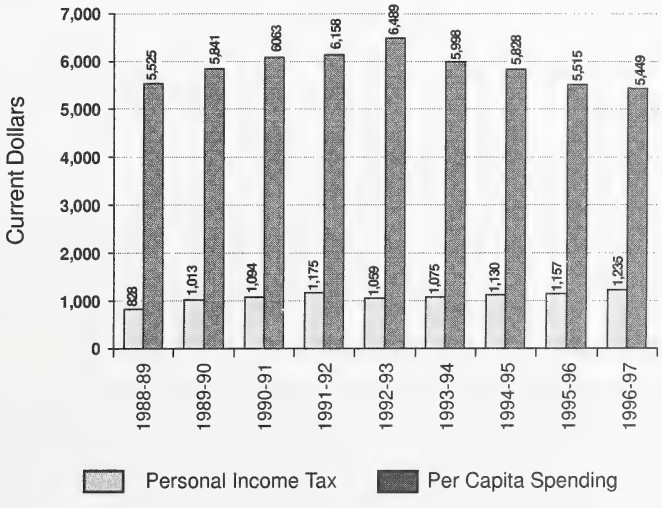
  Transportation and Utilities

- restructure Alberta's electric industry to further the development of a competitive deregulated market.

  Energy

Per Capita Spending Versus Personal Income Tax

The following supplemental information compares actual total spending by the Alberta Government to personal income tax revenue on a per capita basis.



Source: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury.
Notes: In 1997-98, Statistics Canada Financial Management Statistics revised its provincial expenditures for 1988-89 onward using the new categories.

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

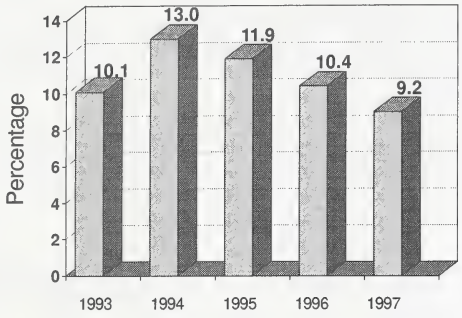
– Goal 9 - Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.

Core Measure: Infrastructure Capacity (new measure)

Target To be determined.

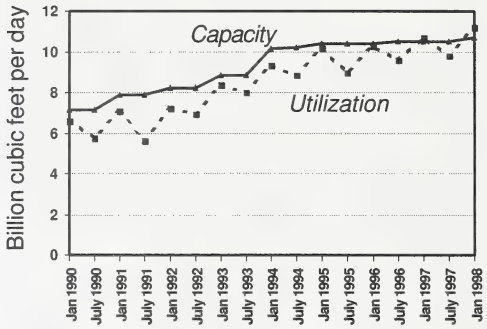
Results New measure.

Primary Highways Subject to Spring Road Bans



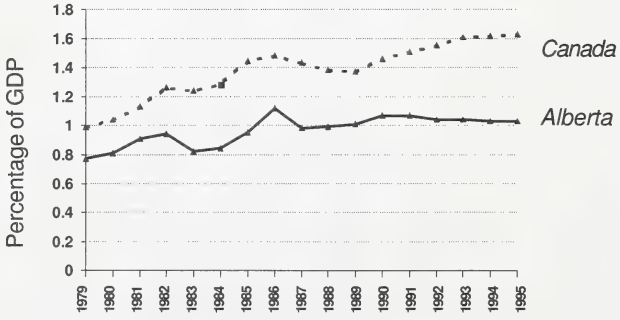
Source: Alberta Transportation and Utilities

Export Gas Pipeline Utilization



Source: Alberta Energy

Gross Expenditure on Research and Development



Source: Estimates of Canadian Research and Development Expenditures, ST-96-08

Methodology

Alberta Transportation and Utilities monitors the structural integrity of primary highways. Based upon engineering guidelines, sections of the system may be subject to vehicle weight restrictions during spring thaw, when roadways are more susceptible to damage. Weight restrictions may also be placed on roads which have not received the final layer of pavement. This measure is calculated as the number of kilometers subject to weight restrictions as a percentage of the total kilometers of primary highway (including all rural primary, series 900, and primary highways through towns and villages).

Alberta Energy collects monthly data from Nova Gas Transmission Ltd. on natural gas pipeline capacity and throughput at major export points. Shortages in Alberta's internal provincial gas distribution system are supplemented by accessing export pipelines; therefore, the capacity utilization level of the export system can affect provincial supply.

Statistics Canada collects data on research expenditure. Gross expenditure on R&D for Alberta and Canada is expressed as a percentage of GDP. This is a standard international basis for comparison of R&D activity.

–Goal 9 - Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.

Quality infrastructure is regarded as an essential building block to support economic development. The availability and capacity of various types of infrastructure can either enhance or restrict development. We will examine whether Alberta's existing infrastructure system has sufficient capacity to support current economic activity, and to facilitate future growth (see also *Export Trade*). The quality of the various forms of infrastructure will be measured by the respective ministries responsible.

This example will focus on three types of infrastructure: roads, pipelines, and research (i.e. knowledge base). The first two represent more traditional forms of infrastructure, while the third is becoming increasingly important in a knowledge based economy. The supplemental information section also provides information on Alberta's utilities rates.

Key Strategies for Goal 9

- promote cooperative initiatives among business and industry, government and municipalities to address the needs for infrastructure development.

  Transportation and Utilities, Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development, Municipal Affairs, Public Works, Supply and Services

- make strategic improvements to key highway routes to improve trade, including the North-South Trade Corridor.

  Transportation and Utilities

- work with local governments to strengthen rural and urban transportation partnerships and ensure that Alberta has a safe and efficient system of roads.

  Municipal Affairs, Transportation and Utilities

- set standards and monitor safety of highways, motor carriers and natural gas distribution systems.

  Transportation and Utilities

- restructure Alberta's electric industry to further the development of a competitive deregulated market.

  Energy

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Average Monthly Utility Bills

This table lists average monthly electrical and natural gas rates for several major cities in Canada. Average monthly electricity use for a large commercial/small industrial operation is 25,000 kW hours, and 400,000 kW hours for an industrial operation, while average monthly gas usage for a large commercial/small industrial operation is 500 GJ, and 5000 GJ for an industrial operation.

Electricity

	Large Commercial Small Industrial	Industrial
Vancouver	$1,499	$18,247
Calgary	2,110	22,566
Edmonton	2,289	25,879
Toronto	2,540	31,592
Montreal	2,157	23,978

Source: ENMAX (as of January 31, 1998)

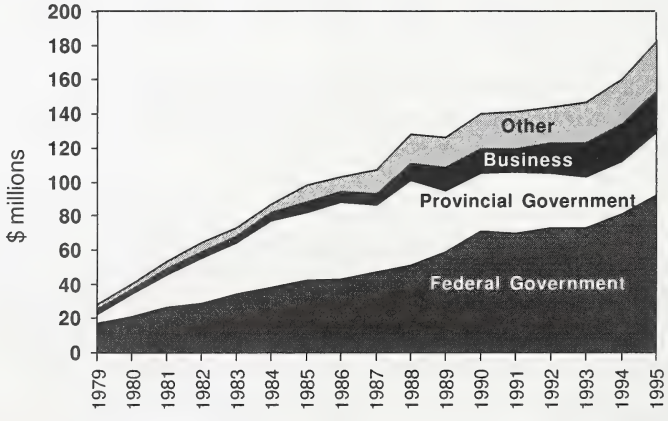
Natural Gas

	Large Commercial Small Industrial	Industrial
Vancouver	$1,885	$15,300
Calgary	1,990	15,804
Edmonton	2,209	15,800
Toronto	2,730	26,550
Montreal	3,055	24,150

Source: Canadian Gas Price Reporter, 1997

Sponsored Research at Alberta Universities

Research infrastructure can play a key role in supporting economic development. Universities represent publicly accessible research facilities and knowledge bases, supplementing companies' in-house capabilities. This graph illustrates sponsored Alberta university research by funding source. Sponsored research at Alberta universities has shown an upward trend over time.



Source: Statistics Canada

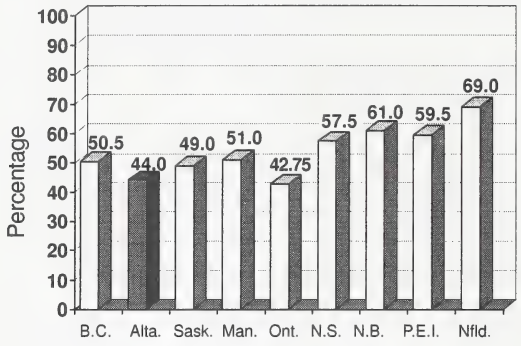
Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.

Core Measure: Taxation Load

Target The lowest provincial personal income tax rate in Canada.

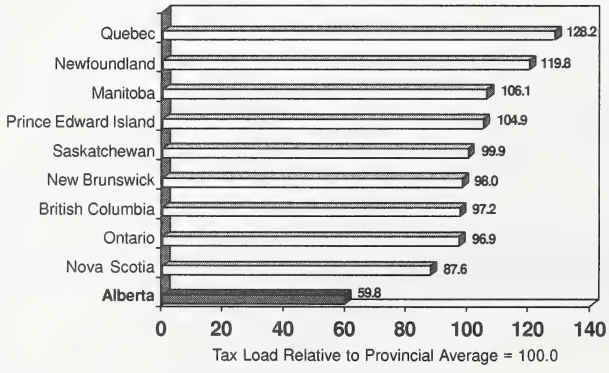
Results Alberta's provincial tax load on persons was roughly 40 percent below the national average, the lowest in Canada. Alberta's provincial personal income tax rate for 1998 was 44 percent, the second lowest in Canada.

Provincial Personal Income Tax Rates - 1998



Source: Alberta Treasury
Note: These are basic provincial personal income tax rates expressed as a percentage of basic federal tax. Quebec's rate is not comparable.

Provincial Tax Load on Persons 1997-98



Source: Federal Department of Finance, Third Estimate for 1997-98, March 1998

Methodology

The provincial personal income tax rate is reported as a percentage of federal income tax and compared with other provinces.

The tax load data is derived by the Federal Department of Finance using all provincial and municipal tax revenue data. Tax load is expressed as an index with the average provincial tax load equal to 100 basis points. The tax load on persons includes personal income tax, sales taxes, tobacco, gasoline and diesel taxes, local property taxes, and payroll taxes.

——— *Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.*

Albertans expect a fair, equitable, and simple taxation system. Personal income tax rates are one indicator of the provincial tax burden on Albertans. Using personal income tax rates also allows a simple comparison of Alberta's competitive tax position with other provinces.

Key Strategies for Goal 10

◆ continue Alberta's solid fiscal plan including balanced budgets, orderly paydown of Alberta's debt, targeted spending and demonstrated results.	*Treasury*
◆ reduce the number of regulations and eliminate unnecessary regulations.	*All ministries*
◆ provide regular reports to Albertans on goals, financial results and performance measures.	*All ministries*
◆ provide efficient management of government resources and communications.	*Public Affairs Bureau, Personnel Administration Office, Public Works, Supply and Services, Treasury*

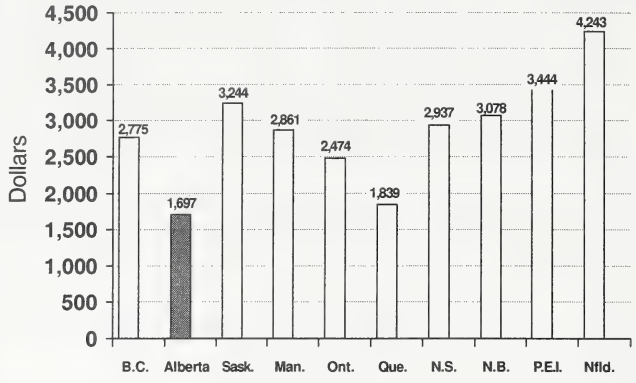
For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Tax Payable by a Family of Four

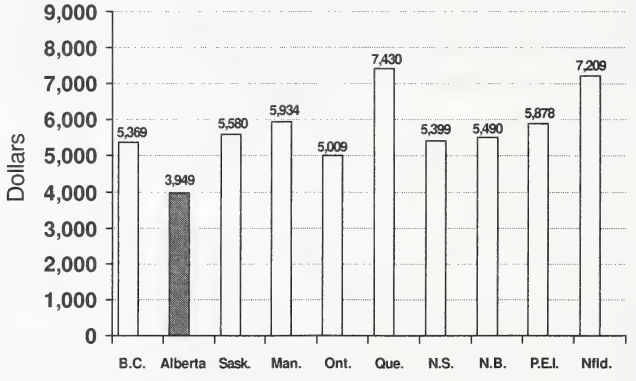
These charts compare the typical taxes payable, including provincial income, sales, payroll, tobacco and fuel taxes (excluding federal taxes) and health care premiums, by a family with two children earning $30,000, $55,000 and $100,000.

Alberta's tax burden on families is the lowest in Canada. Alberta families pay nearly 1/3 less in combined total provincial taxes and health care premiums, than the average of the other nine provinces.

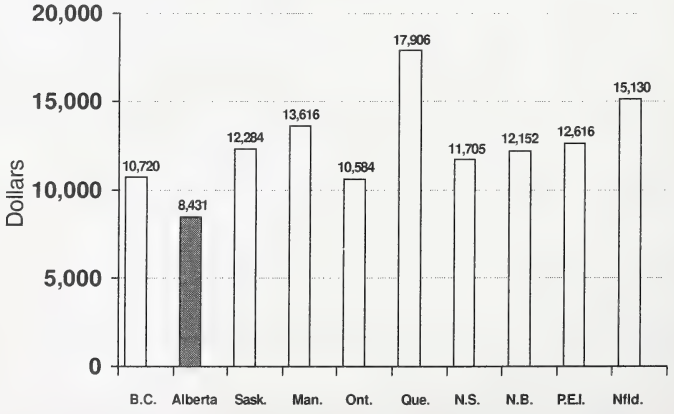
Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $30,000 - 1998
One Income Family - Two Children



Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $55,000 - 1998
Two Income Family - Two Children



Selected Taxes Payable by a Family Earning $100,000 - 1998
Two Income Family - Two Children

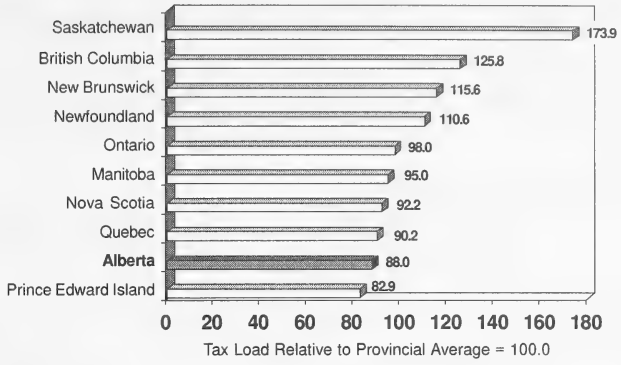


Source: Alberta Treasury - Tax Policy Group
Note: Assumptions for the calculation can be found in Budget '98, p 146.

Provincial Tax Load on Businesses 1997-98

This chart compares provincial tax load on businesses. The tax load on businesses includes all business-related taxes such as business income taxes, capital tax, insurance premium revenues, and other local government taxes.

Alberta has the second lowest business tax load in Canada.



Source: Federal Department of Finance, Third Estimate for 1997-98, March 1998

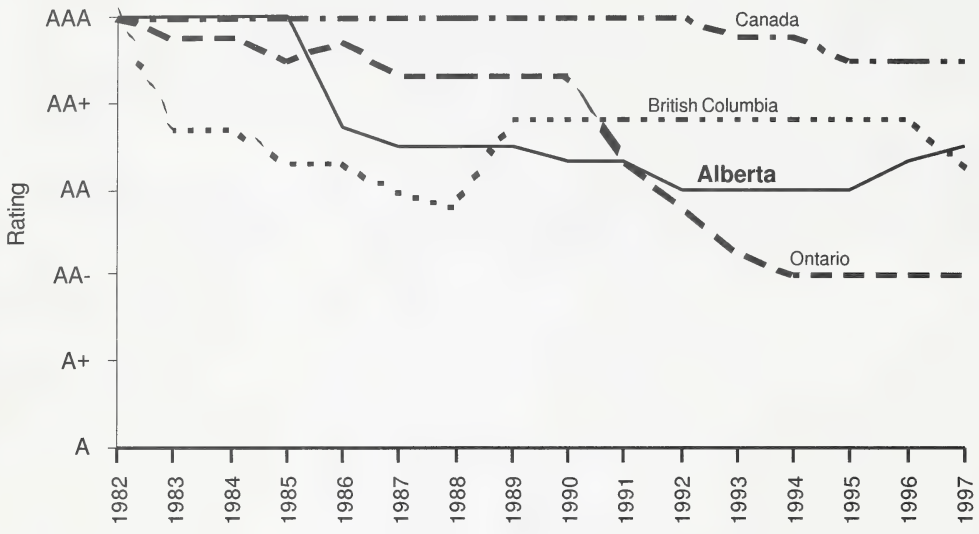
Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.

Core Measure: Provincial Credit Rating

Target The highest credit rating among the provinces.

Results Alberta's blended credit rating in 1997 was above AA, the highest among the provinces.

Blended Credit Rating



Source: Alberta Treasury
Note: The blended credit rating is an average of the credit ratings issued by the following credit rating agencies: Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Dominion Bond Rating Service, and Canadian Bond Rating Service.

A credit rating is a credit rating agency's assessment of the future ability of an organization to repay its long-term debt, and a method of comparing the quality of different bond issues. Alberta's high AA blended credit rating reflects the rating agencies' very positive assessment of the province's fiscal, economic and political environment.

Methodology

A blended rate of domestic debt assessments by Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Dominion Bond Rating Service, and the Canadian Bond Rating Service.

Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.

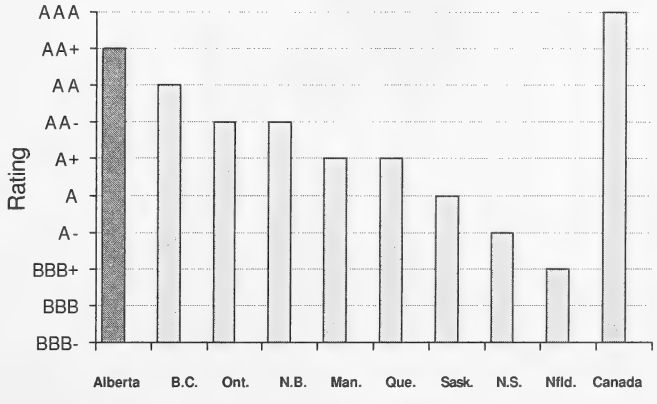
Key Strategies for Goal 10

- continue Alberta's solid fiscal plan including balanced budgets, orderly paydown of Alberta's debt, targeted spending and demonstrated results. — *Treasury*
- reduce the number of regulations and eliminate unnecessary regulations. — *All ministries*
- provide regular reports to Albertans on goals, financial results and performance measures. — *All ministries*
- provide efficient management of government resources and communications. — *Public Affairs Bureau, Personnel Administration Office, Public Works, Supply and Services, Treasury*

Credit Rating

The chart compares provincial and federal credit ratings. According to Standard and Poor's, Alberta is the most credit worthy of all the provinces.

Moody's rates Alberta and British Columbia at Aa2, their top rating among the provinces.



Source: Alberta Treasury
Note: Standard and Poor's Canadian dollar debt ratings as of January 1, 1998

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

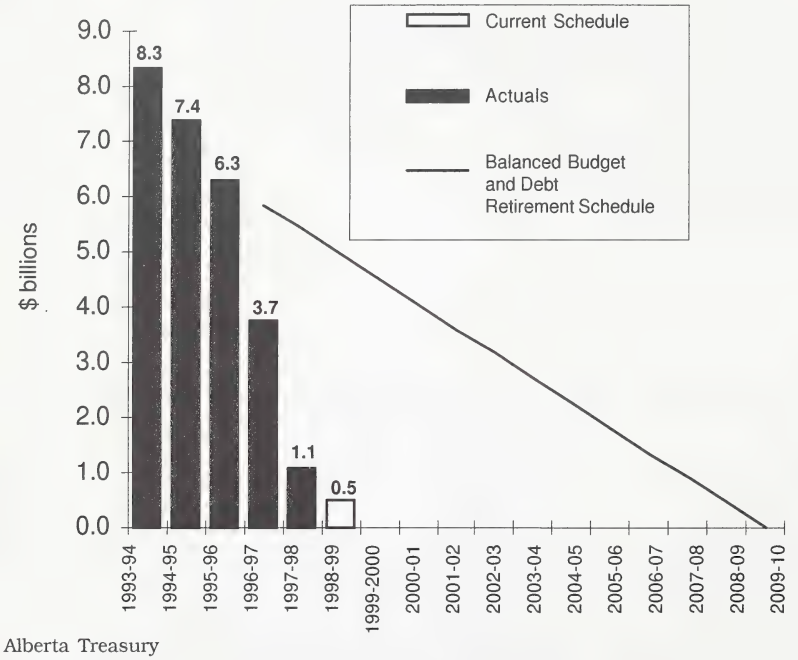
Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.

Core Measure: Net Debt

Target Alberta's Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act requires net debt, excluding pension liabilities, be eliminated by 2009-10.

Results The province's net debt was reduced by $2.6 billion from the previous year. The net provincial debt at the end of 1997-98 was $1.1 billion.

Net Debt



Source: Alberta Treasury

Albertans are concerned about the amount of debt the province owes. In 1993-94 the province's total net debt (the difference between assets and liabilities, excluding pension liabilities) exceeded $8 billion. Net Debt is an indicator of the financial strength of the province and the long-term performance of the government. A high amount of debt becomes a burden to future generations of Albertans. Originally, net debt was to be eliminated by 2021-22. The province has changed its legislated plan (the Balanced Budget and Debt Retirement Act) to eliminate net debt by 2009-10.

Methodology

The annual Public Accounts report the province's net debt for the year. Net debt is defined as the difference between the province's financial assets and its liabilities, excluding pension liabilities. Assets do not include capital assets such as land and buildings, but do include external Heritage Fund investments and loans to farmers and small businesses. Liabilities include General Revenue Fund and crown corporation liabilities, and accounts payable, less Heritage Fund internal debt holdings.

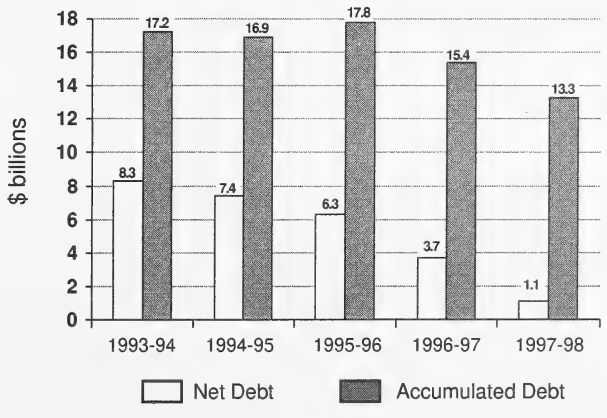
Goal 10 - Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.

Key Strategies for Goal 10

- continue Alberta's solid fiscal plan including balanced budgets, orderly paydown of Alberta's debt, targeted spending and demonstrated results. — *Treasury*
- reduce the number of regulations and eliminate unnecessary regulations. — *All ministries*
- provide regular reports to Albertans on goals, financial results and performance measures. — *All ministries*
- provide efficient management of government resources and communications. — *Public Affairs Bureau, Personnel Administration Office, Public Works, Supply and Services, Treasury*

Net Debt versus Accumulated Debt

The province's accumulated debt is defined as its total liabilities less pension obligations, Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation debt, school board construction loans, and short-term liabilities.

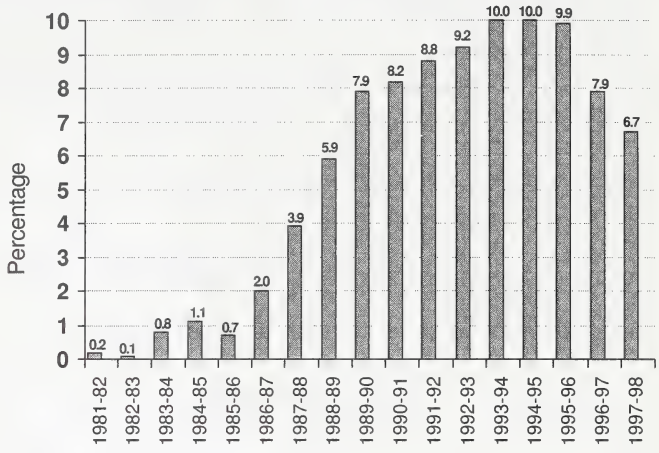


Source: Province of Alberta, Public Accounts.

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

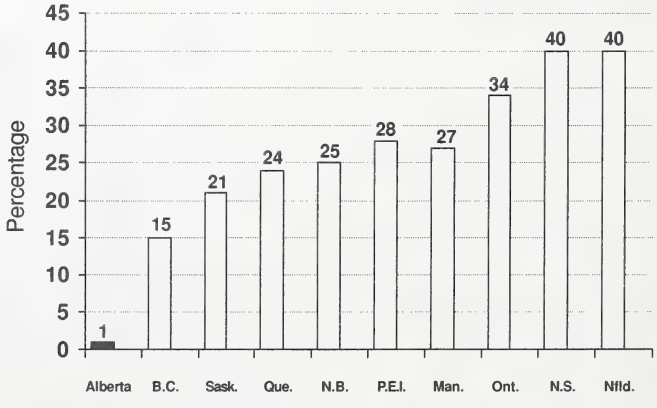
Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' Indicators of Government Financial Condition

Alberta Debt Servicing Costs as a Percentage of Provincial Revenue



Source: Province of Alberta, Public Accounts

Net Debt as a Percentage of Provincial GDP, 1997-98



Source: Alberta Treasury.
Note: Figures are Alberta Treasury projections, based on the latest available provincial data.

—Goal 11 - Alberta will have a fair and safe work environment.

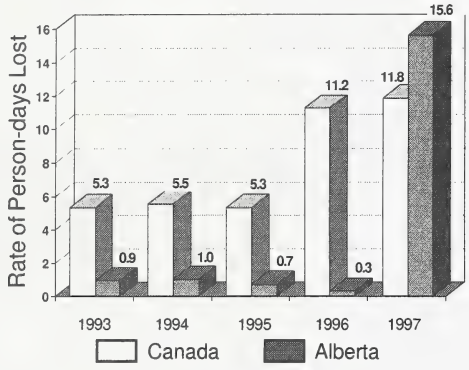
Core Measure: Workplace Climate

Target Minimize the amount of time lost due to workplace disputes (work stoppages) and workplace injury and disease.

Results In 1997, Alberta lost 15.6 person-days to work stoppages per 10,000 person-days worked, ranking second highest in Canada behind Ontario. Alberta's rate increase was mainly due to the Canada Safeway Ltd. dispute, which accounted for over 90% of all person-days lost. Excluding the Safeway dispute, Alberta's rate was 1.6 person-days, third lowest among the provinces.

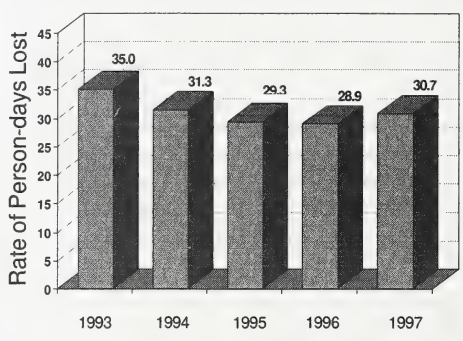
The rate of person-days lost to workplace injury and disease increased slightly from 1996. Workplace injuries typically rise with an increase in economic activity as a greater percentage of less-experienced workers are added to the workforce.

Person-days Lost to Work Stoppages per 10,000 Person-days Worked



Source: Human Resources Development Canada; The Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada; Public Sector Employment, Wages and Salaries, Statistics Canada (CANSIM Matrix 2860).

Person-days Lost Due to Injury and Disease per 10,000 Person-days Worked



Source: Alberta Labour; Workers' Compensation Board; Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada; Public Sector Employment, Wages and Salaries, Statistics Canada (CANSIM Matrix 2860).

Investment in the province is, to some extent, determined by cooperative labour relations, fairness, and health and safety in the workplace. These measures not only look at protective actions, but also proactive steps such as increasing levels of partnership among business, labour and government.

It is also important to provide a safe and harmonious work environment to attract the skilled labour required to facilitate economic growth. Competition for skilled labour may increasingly depend upon the quality of working environment offered by employers.

Methodology

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) provides the number of person-days lost due to work stoppages, and an estimate of the person-days lost due to workplace injury and disease for all provinces in Canada. The Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) provides data on person-days lost due to injury and disease, based on claims submitted by its clients. (The WCB data includes claims compensated in the reference year and up to three months after the reference year. Besides other methodological differences, HRDC data does not include claims compensated after the reference year.) Statistics Canada provides information used to calculate person-days worked. Person-days lost are divided by person-days worked and multiplied by 10,000 to obtain the rates.

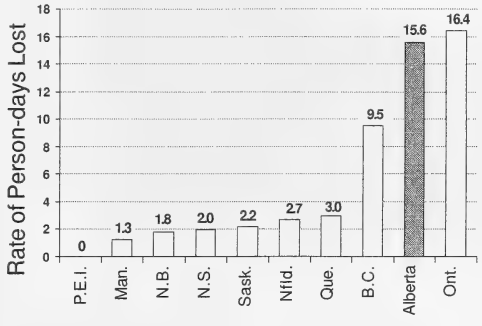
—*Goal 11 - Alberta will have a fair and safe work environment.*

Key Strategies for Goal 11

- promote high standards in the workplace in terms of organization, operation, safety systems and health and safety. *Labour*
- provide education, information and consultation services to eliminate discrimination and barriers to full participation for all Albertans. *Community Development*

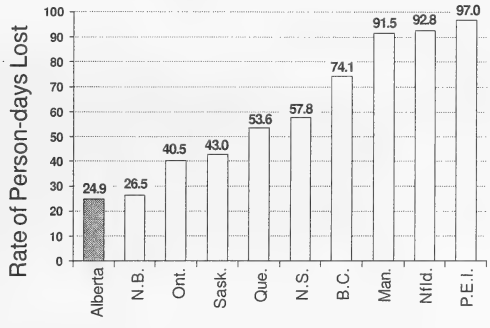
Provincial Ranking of Person-days Lost per 10,000 person-days worked

Work Stoppages - 1997



Source: Human Resources Development Canada; The Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada; Public Sector Employment, Wages and Salaries, Statistics Canada (CANSIM 2860).

Injury and Disease - 1996



Source: Human Resources Development Canada; Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada; Public Sector Employment, Wages and Salaries, Statistics Canada (CANSIM Matrix 2860).

Note: The 1996 Alberta interprovincial rate for injury and disease is lower than the Alberta rate on the previous page because Human Resources Development Canada's methodology consistently results in a lower level of claims.

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

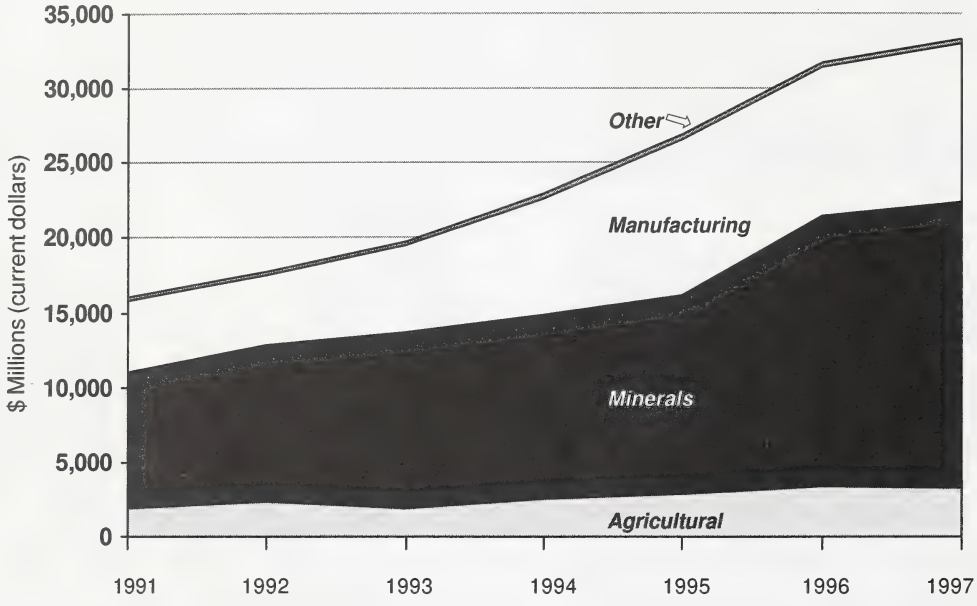
Goal 12 - Alberta businesses will increase exports.

Core Measure: Export Trade

Target Increase exports to $39.6 billion by 2000.

Results Alberta's commodity exports to international markets increased by $1.6 billion to $33.3 billion in 1997. Mining exports continued to represent the largest share of Alberta's exports.

Value of Alberta's International Exports
(by major commodity group)



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Agricultural	1,934	2,294	1,899	2,565	2,829	3,399	3,241
Minerals	9,141	10,503	11,794	12,233	13,255	18,037	19,113
Manufacturing	4,703	4,705	5,791	7,808	10,468	9,954	10,613
Other	242	188	208	267	267	308	363
TOTAL	16,020	17,690	19,692	22,873	26,819	31,698	33,330

Source: Alberta Economic Development (derived from Statistics Canada data)

Exports are a vital part of Alberta's economy. As indicated in the graph above, resources continue to represent a significant portion of Alberta's exports (see also *Resource Wealth*). Alberta's ability to access export markets (see supplemental information), and world market prices for its exported goods, can affect Alberta's export potential and overall economic growth.

Methodology

Alberta Economic Development uses Statistics Canada data to monitor the value of goods exported to other countries.

Goal 12 - Alberta businesses will increase exports.

Key Strategies for Goal 12

◆ expand national and international market opportunities for Alberta's value-added industries and services.	*Economic Development, Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development,*
◆ improve Alberta's ability to compete and do business in global markets by expanding people's understanding of world languages and cultures.	*Advanced Education and Career Development, Alberta Economic Development Authority, Economic Development*
◆ assist Alberta firms in identifying and pursuing international projects and contracts.	*Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Economic Development*
◆ provide market intelligence and information about export opportunities.	*Economic Development*
◆ coordinate Alberta's participation in strategic international relationships and agreements with key trading partners, states and provinces.	*Economic Development, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*

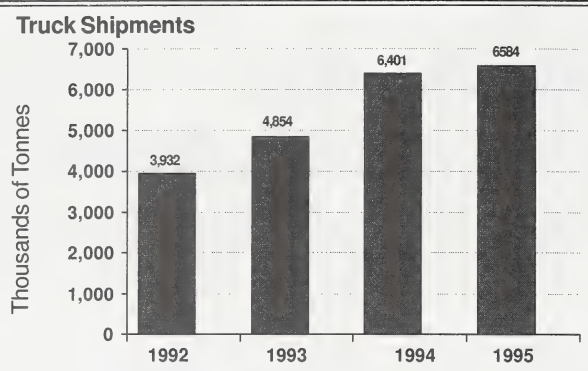
For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

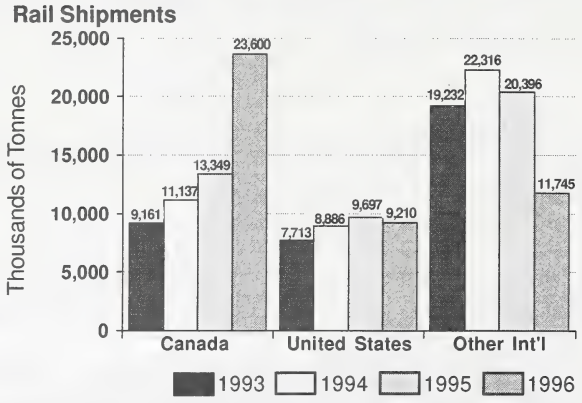
Goal 10 - Supplemental Information

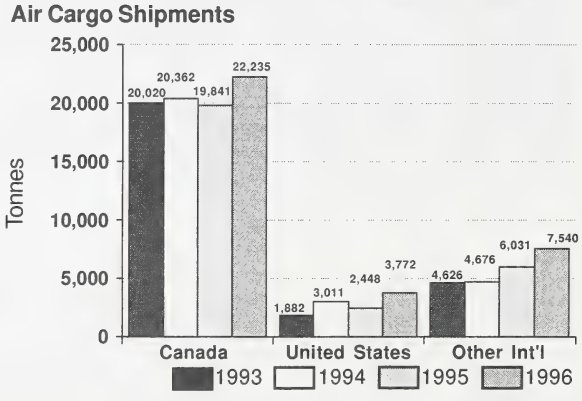
Alberta Exports - Volume of Goods Shipped

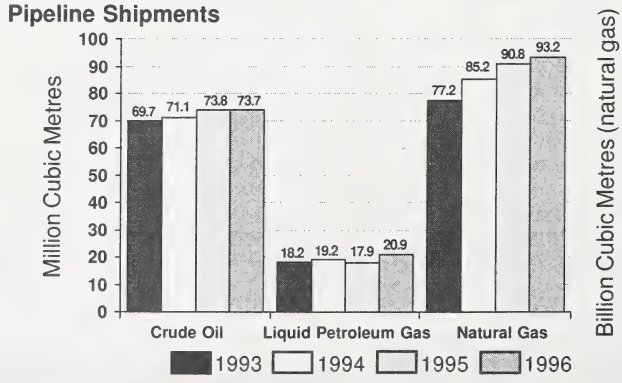
Statistics Canada monitors the value and volume of goods shipped for certain modes of transportation. Tracking the value of goods shipped may obscure a decline in total volume if prices are increasing. Conversely, a fall in price may reduce the value of exports with no change in the volume shipped.

An increasing volume of goods shipped is another indicator that Alberta is able to compete internationally.









Source: Statistics Canada - Cat. No. 53-222, 52-216, 51-203-XPB, 55-201-XPB, 57-205.

Performance Highlights

Preservation . . . preserving the Alberta tradition

The core business of *Preservation* describes the government's work in fostering:

- a safe society where justice prevails
- a clean environment
- strong values and culture
- pride in Alberta and strength within Canada, and
- strong communities.

There are five government goals for the *Preservation* core business and six *Preservation* performance measures. **Overall, there has been limited change in performance.** The following are the 1997-98 performance highlights for these six *Preservation* measures. The meaning of the symbols is:

⇧	improved performance
▬	no significant change in performance from previous year
⬇	declining performance

▬ **Crime Rate** - In 1996, the violent crime rate increased slightly by 0.3%, while property crimes continued to fall, dropping by 2.3%.

⇧ **Serious Youth Crime** - Both violent and property crimes by Alberta youth continued to decline in 1996-97, but remain above the Canadian average.

▬ **Resource Sustainability** - Alberta's timber harvest remains below the annual allowable cut. The coniferous harvest was at 92% of the annual allowable cut; the deciduous harvest was at 57%. The replacement rate of conventional oil and natural gas reserves remains insufficient to offset production. Crop yield on agricultural land fell in 1997, due to an unseasonably wet spring.

▬ **Air Quality** - On average, the quality of Alberta's air continues to be rated either good or fair every day, with 359 days rated good in 1997.

▬ **Water Quality** - There has been little change in the quality of Alberta river water from last year. The quality of Alberta rivers is still generally fair to good. Water quality is poorer downstream from major cities or from large developments.

⬇ **Land Quality** - Land productivity, expressed as crop yield per acre, has improved over the 1971-1980 baseline, but fell in 1997 to 0.87 tonnes/acre.

The 1997-98 results indicate that in general we are making progress in some areas, but need to be vigilant in others. In the *Preservation* core businesses, **areas for improvement are:**

- **Violent Crime Rate** - While Alberta's property crime rate has fallen below the national average, the violent crime rate still remains slightly above.

- **Serious Youth Crime** - Alberta's youth crime rates in 1996-97 remain significantly above the Canadian average. Violent youth crimes are 33% above the national average, and property crimes are 45% higher than the national average.

- **Remaining Oil and Gas Reserves** - Alberta's remaining conventional oil and gas reserves continue to decline as current production levels exceed additions to supply. New discoveries and additions through new technologies have only replaced about 58% of conventional oil production in recent years, and about 49% of natural gas production. This has resulted in remaining established conventional oil reserves falling below 7 years supply, and natural gas falling below 11 years supply.

- **Downstream Water Quality** - Water quality downstream from major urban areas is not acceptable for recreational use for three of the province's six major rivers. Fecal coliform bacteria levels downstream of Edmonton and Calgary often exceed water quality guidelines. Calgary and Edmonton have recently begun to disinfect their wastewater with ultra-violet light which should improve compliance.

Preservation . . .

preserving the Alberta tradition of:

- a safe society where justice prevails
- a clean environment
- strong values and cultures
- pride in Alberta and strength within Canada
- strong communities.

	Goal	Measures	Results
-	Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families	**Crime Rate**	Violent crimes up slightly (0.3%) and property crimes down by 2.3% in 1996.
⇧		**Serious Youth Crime**	Both violent and property crime rates fell in 1996-97.
-	Alberta's natural resources will be sustained.	**Resource Sustainability**	Timber harvest below annual allowable cut. Replacement of oil and gas reserves is less than production. Land productivity declined.
-	The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.	**Air Quality**	No days of poor air quality in 1997.
-		**Water Quality**	River quality still generally fair to good.
⇩		**Land Quality**	Land productivity declined to 0.87 tonnes/acre.
-	Albertans will have the opportunity to enjoy the province's natural, historical and cultural resources.	**Heritage Appreciation**	New measure.
-	Alberta will work with other governments and maintain its strong position in Canada.	**Intergovernmental Relations**	New measure.

—Goal 13 - Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families.

Core Measure: Crime Rate

Target

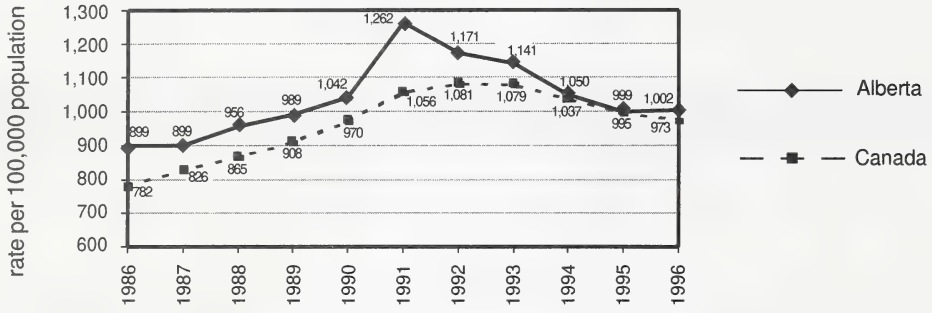
Reduce Alberta's crime rates below the national average by the year 2000.

Results

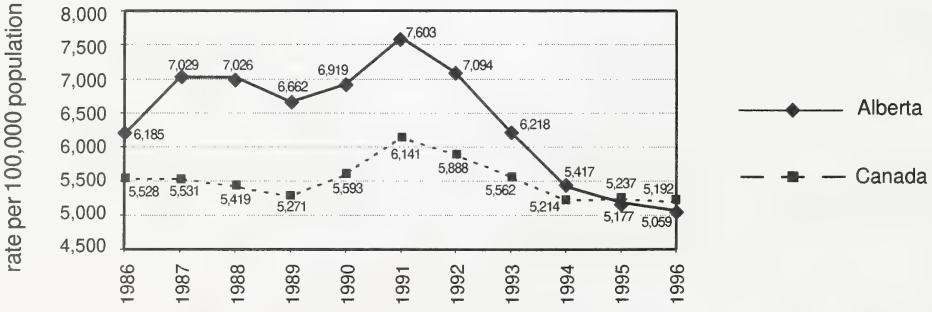
Since 1991, violent and property crime rates have fallen by 20.6% and 33.5% respectively. Although Alberta showed a slight increase in the rate of violent crime in 1996, the property crime rate has continued to fall.

In 1996, Alberta's violent crime rate remained slightly above the Canadian average but the property crime rate was 2.6% below the national average.

Violent Crime Rate



Property Crime Rate



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Canadian Crime Statistics

Methodology

Crime statistics are collected using the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a common survey used to measure police-reported crime in each Canadian jurisdiction. Crime rates may vary owing to differences in the jurisdictions' enforcement methods, charging practices and available diversion programs, rather than the incidence of actual crime. Population data from Statistics Canada is used to convert reported crime into crime rates per 100,000 population.

—*Goal 13 - Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families.*

Albertans want their homes and communities to be safe. The distribution and type of crime indicates the relative safety of Alberta communities. It may also be an indicator of the strength of families, the education system and our economy.

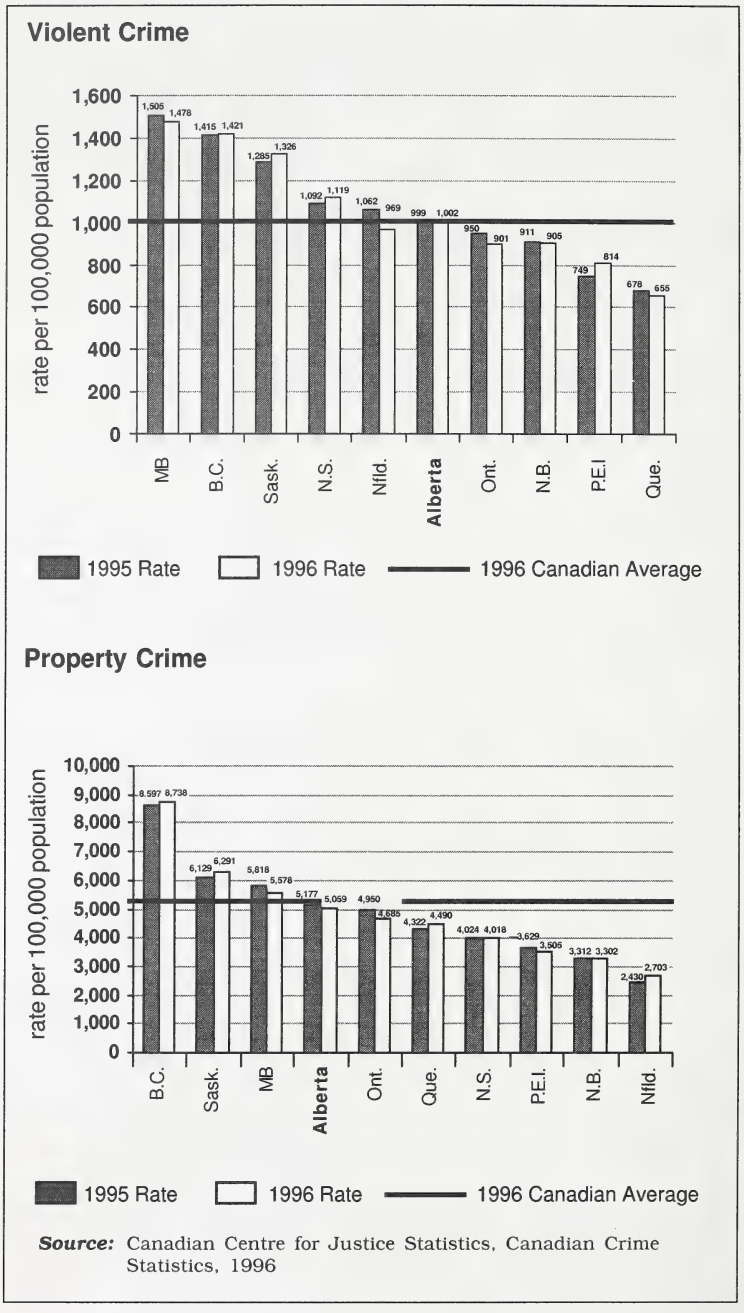
Crime is defined as the total number of *Criminal Code of Canada* incidents.

Key Strategies for Goal 13

- encourage police services to expand community policing. — *Justice*
- protect human rights for all Albertans. — *Community Development*
- focus resources on preventing crimes that pose the greatest risk to public safety. — *Justice*
- follow up with Justice Canada on recommended changes in the administration of the Young Offenders Act. — *Justice*
- provide a balanced and appropriate regulatory framework for consumers and business. — *Municipal Affairs*
- take action to improve traffic safety through driver education, road safety awareness and enforcement. — *Transportation and Utilities*
- assist municipalities in preparing for emergencies and responding to major disasters. — *Transportation and Utilities*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Canadian Crime Rates by Province
(Rates per 100,000 Population)



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Canadian Crime Statistics, 1996

—Goal 13 - Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families.

Core Measure: Serious Youth Crime

Target

Reduce Alberta's crime rates below the national average by the year 2000.

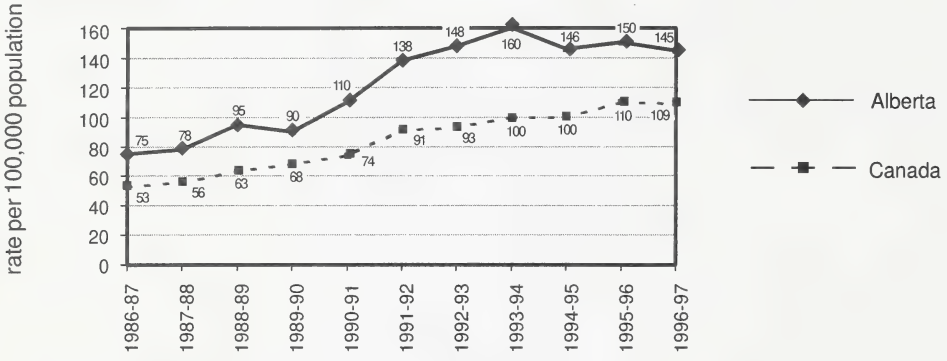
Note: This measure will become supplemental information to the *Crime Rate* measure next year.

Results

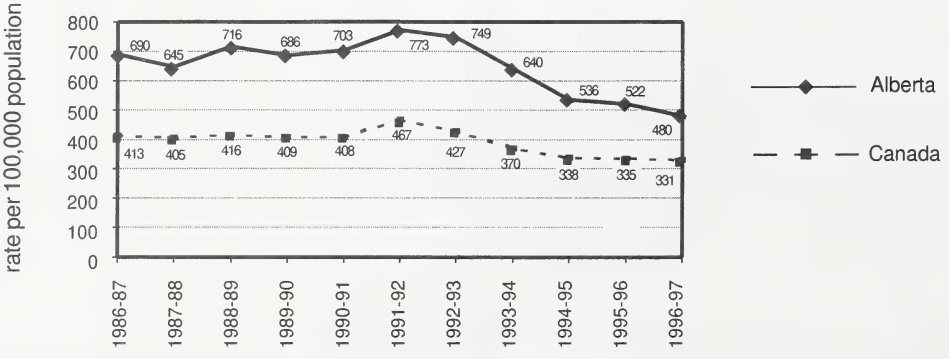
The violent youth crime rate remains above the national average. Alberta's violent youth crime rate fell by 3.3% in 1996-97.

The youth property crime rate fell 8.0% in 1996-97, narrowing the gap between Alberta and the Canadian average.

Violent Youth Crime Rate



Youth Property Crime Rate



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey 1996-97

Albertans want their homes and communities to be safe. The distribution and type of crime indicates the relative safety of Alberta communities. It may also be an indicator of the strength of families, the education system and our economy.

Methodology

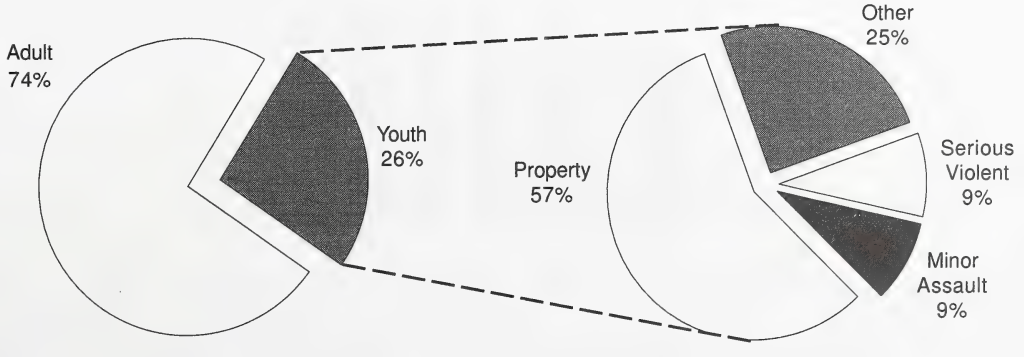
The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics collects youth court data from each jurisdiction and publishes it in an annual report. The rate data is based on the number of charges laid against youth. Crime rates may vary owing to differences in the jurisdictions' enforcement methods, charging practices and available diversion programs rather than the incidence of actual crime. Starting in 1995-96, national data includes Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

—*Goal 13 - Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families.*

Key Strategies for Goal 13

- encourage police services to expand community policing. *Justice*
- protect human rights for all Albertans. *Community Development*
- focus resources on preventing crimes that pose the greatest risk to public safety. *Justice*
- follow up with Justice Canada on recommended changes in the administration of the Young Offenders Act. *Justice*
- provide a balanced and appropriate regulatory framework for consumers and business. *Municipal Affairs*
- take action to improve traffic safety through driver education, road safety awareness and enforcement. *Transportation and Utilities*
- assist municipalities in preparing for emergencies and responding to major disasters. *Transportation and Utilities*

The following charts show the charges against youth as a percentage of all criminal charges laid in Alberta [left], and a breakdown of charges against youth by type of crime [right].



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Canadian Crime Statistics 1996

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Goal 14 - Alberta's natural resources will be sustained.

Core Measure: Resource Sustainability

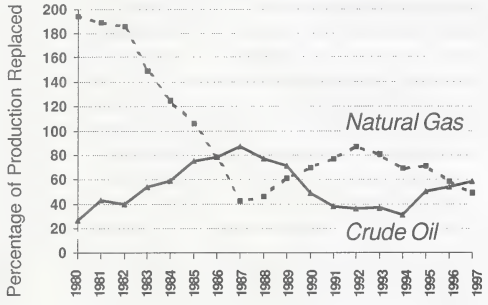
Target

The oil and gas industry will replace production with new discoveries and new technologies. Alberta's timber harvest will remain below the annual allowable cut and farm crop yield per acre will increase to 0.98 tonnes per acre by the year 2000.

Results

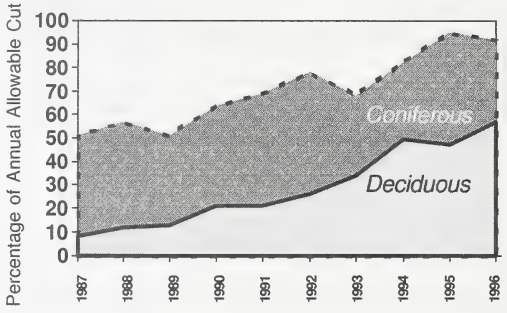
The replacement ratio for gas reserves continues to decline, while the ratio for oil has been increasing. Alberta's timber harvest remained below the annual allowable cut and farm crop yield per acre declined to .87 tonnes per acre due to an unseasonably wet spring.

Oil and Gas Index
(5-year moving average)



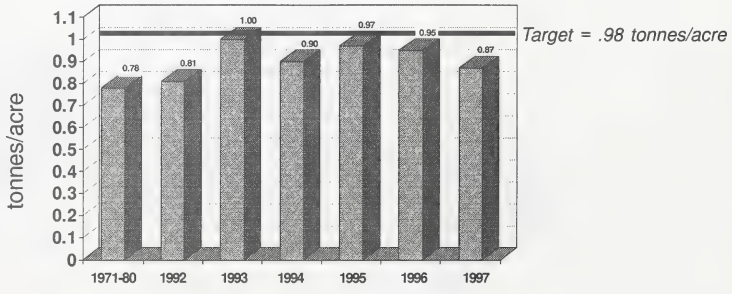
Source: Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

Timber Sustainability



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Land Productivity



Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Methodology

The oil and gas graph compares the production of oil and gas to the increase in reserves through exploration, new discoveries and development activities (using a five-year moving average). This graph does not show oil sands (crude bitumen) reserves or production rates. The gas series reflects the change to a "just-in-time" supply policy.

Timber sustainability compares the annual timber harvest with the long-term sustainable annual allowable cut (AAC) as set by the province within the Green Area. The Green Area is primarily the unsettled portion of the province defined as lands not available for agricultural development other than grazing. The AAC is the amount of timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis within a defined planning area. Forest management strategies also take into account other forest uses outside of timber production.

Data is collected by Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for the various crops and is converted to a standard base of tonnes per acre of wheat.

Goal 14 - Alberta's natural resources will be sustained.

Alberta's natural resources are the foundation of our economy (see also *Resource Wealth*). Ensuring the long term sustainability of our renewable resources (forests, parks and agricultural lands) will help ensure long term prosperity for the province. Wise use of our nonrenewable resources (oil, oil sands and natural gas) will ensure that current and future generations benefit from their use. These indices for oil and gas, forestry and agricultural land indicate the general health of these resources and their ability to maintain production on a sustainable basis.

Key Strategies for Goal 14

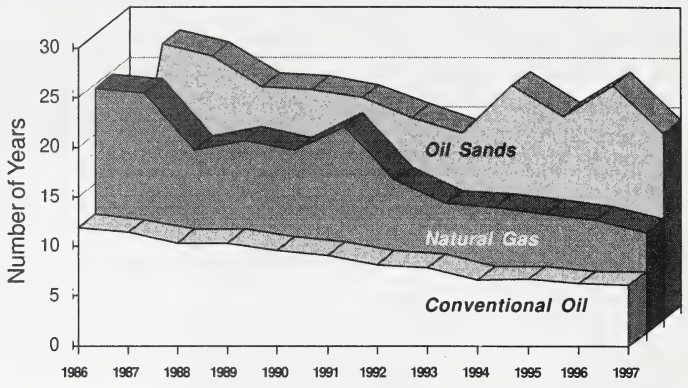
- provide clear, effective direction and guidelines for the use, management, regulation and development of Alberta's renewable and non-renewable resources. — *Energy, Environmental Protection*
- reduce the impact of natural hazards such as fire, drought, flood and pests on people, property and resources. — *Environmental Protection*
- implement the long-term Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture program. — *Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Remaining Established Reserves
(Years of Supply Based on Current Production)

This graph indicates the number of remaining years of supply of established reserves for oil, oil sands and natural gas, based upon current production levels. Established reserves are those reserves recoverable under current technology and present and anticipated economic conditions. Therefore, changes in established reserves can occur through new discoveries, new technologies or changing economic conditions.

In 1997, the Energy and Utilities Board estimated the remaining established mineable oil sands reserve to be 6.4 billion cubic metres. Only 340 million cubic metres of mineable reserves under active development and 274 million cubic metres from in situ extraction projects under active development are used in the established reserves life index calculation. Current established oil sands reserves are significantly less than the estimated 49 billion cubic metres of ultimate potential reserves.



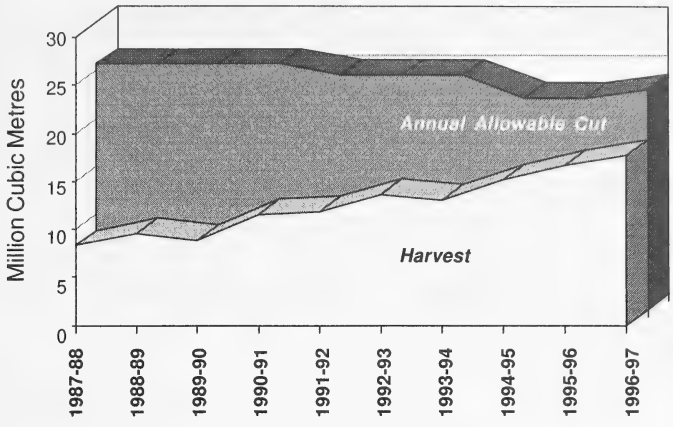
Year	Conventional Oil	Natural Gas	Oil Sands
1986	11.93	24.61	—
1987	11.39	24.15	27.69
1988	10.37	18.37	26.47
1989	10.42	19.23	23.37
1990	9.61	18.28	23.00
1991	9.11	20.64	22.20
1992	8.25	15.33	20.26
1993	7.85	12.96	18.60
1994	6.61	12.54	23.54
1995	6.72	11.96	20.35
1996	6.24	11.33	23.51
1997	6.22	10.05	18.66

Source: Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
Alberta Reserves of Crude Oil, Oil Sands, Natural Gas Liquids and Sulphur

Goal 14 - Supplemental Information

Timber Sustainability

This graph compares the change in timber harvest volumes to the total annual allowable cut (AAC) within the Green Area. The AAC is the amount of timber that can be harvested on a sustainable basis within a defined planning area. The AAC is adjusted to reflect changes in timber supply, availability, and forest management strategies.



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

Core Measure: Air Quality

Target Maintain air quality at levels which are considered "good" or "fair" at all times.

Results While there were no days rated poor or very poor last year, there were a number of hours rated poor or very poor. Very poor levels typically occur only 1-2 hours per year in Calgary and Edmonton. We will continue to strive for good or fair air quality at all times.

Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor Air Quality Days Each Year

	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1987	350	15	0	0
1988	355	11	0	0
1989	356	9	0	0
1990	354	11	0	0
1991	352	13	0	0
1992	361	5	0	0
1993	359	6	0	0
1994	349	16	0	0
1995	358	7	0	0
1996	360	6	0	0
1997	359	6	0	0

Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

One of Albertans' key concerns about the environment is the quality of air we breathe. Ensuring the protection of Alberta's clean air is paramount to maintaining our health and quality of life (see also *Life Expectancy at Birth* and supplemental information). Poor air quality may also have negative effects on crop quality and production (see also *Land Quality*). The air quality index provides an indication of the quality of air in Alberta throughout the year.

Methodology

The measure is based on data collected from eight continuous monitoring stations across the province - three stations in both Edmonton and Calgary, and one station in both Fort Saskatchewan and Fort McMurray. The data from these stations is used to calculate the Index of Quality of Air (IQUA) every hour.

The IQUA is based on outdoor concentrations of five major air pollutants (carbon monoxide, the coefficient of haze, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide). The concentration of each pollutant is converted to an IQUA number, and the highest number is the IQUA for that station. IQUA ratings are divided into Good, Fair, Poor and Very Poor categories. These categories are derived using formulas based on air quality guidelines of the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the National Air Quality Objectives.

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

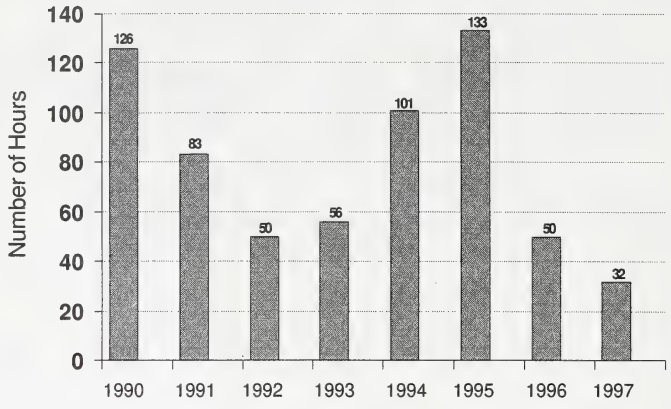
Key Strategies for Goal 15

- ensure standards are acceptable and take action to maintain the quality of air, land, water and ecosystems. — *Environmental Protection*
- ensure clear responsibility and accountability for environmental management, including the respective roles of government and industry. — *Alberta Economic Development Authority, Environmental Protection*
- provide predictable, consistent and streamlined regulations for land use and resource management. — *Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Environmental Protection*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Sulphur Dioxide Levels Exceeding Guideline

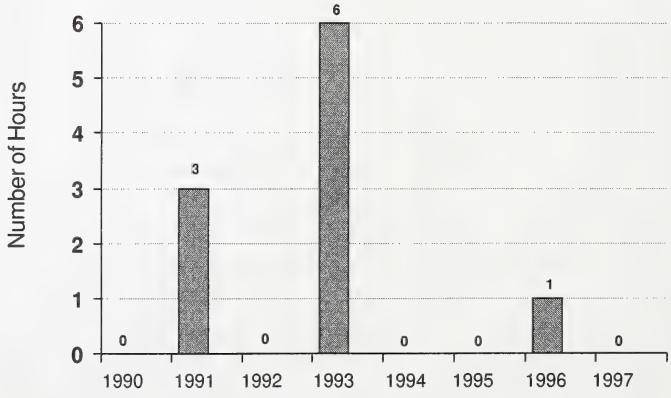
Sulphur dioxide can decrease growth rates of crops and trees, corrode metals and weaken textiles and building materials. Sulphur dioxide irritates the throat and lungs and can damage the respiratory system. Most emissions are from the energy industry.



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection
Note: Data collected from 100 industry operated stations throughout the province.

Nitrogen Dioxide Levels Exceeding Guideline

Nitrogen dioxide may be toxic to plants at high concentration levels, and can irritate the lungs and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. In combination with either ozone or sulphur dioxide, it may cause injury at even low concentration levels. The largest urban source is motor vehicle emissions.



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection
Note: Data collected from 100 industry operated stations throughout the province.

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

Core Measure: Water Quality

Target

Bring river quality downstream of developed areas in line with upstream conditions.

Results

Overall, the water quality of Alberta's major rivers is good to fair; however, water quality downstream of urban centres on the North Saskatchewan, Bow and Oldman Rivers is unacceptable for recreational use. Water quality tends to be poorer downstream of areas of significant urban, industrial or agricultural development. Fecal coliform bacteria, phosphorous and nitrogen are the variables which most commonly do not meet guidelines.

Water Quality Index (1996): Suitability of Alberta's Major Rivers for Various Uses

Location	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Agriculture	Issues - Concerns
SMOKY/PEACE RIVER				
at Watimo	○	⊗	○	pulp mill & municipal sources
at Ft Vermilion	○	⊗	○	
ATHABASCA RIVER				
at Athabasca	○	⊗	⊗	pulp mill & municipal sources
at Old Fort	○	⊗	⊗	
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER				
upstream of Edmonton	⊗	○	○	municipal, industrial and
downstream of Edmonton	●	⊗	○	agricultural pollution sources
RED DEER RIVER				
upstream of Red Deer	⊗	○	○	municipal, industrial and
downstream of Red Deer	○	⊗	○	agricultural pollution sources
BOW RIVER				
upstream of Calgary	○	○	○	municipal & agricultural pollution
downstream of Calgary	●	⊗	○	sources; reduced flow due to water withdrawal
OLDMAN RIVER				
upstream of Lethbridge	○	⊗	○	municipal & agricultural pollution
downstream of Lethbridge	●	⊗	○	sources

Based on percentage of compliant tests in 1996

○ water quality is good: (100 - 96% compliance)
⊗ water quality is fair: (95 - 86% compliance)
○ water quality is poor: (85 - 71% compliance)
● water quality is not acceptable (70% compliance and lower)

Source: Alberta Environmental Protection
Note: Municipal sources includes waste water from cities, towns and from storm water run-off.

Methodology

Samples are collected on a monthly basis at two locations in each of the province's six major river systems.

Up to twenty water quality variables from each sample are compared with the appropriate guideline. The percentage of tests meeting guidelines is the base measure of water quality. The variables are placed into three groups pertaining to different river uses. Some variables are included in more than one category. For example, fecal coliform bacteria may indicate health risks to swimmers, and may affect the suitability of water for crop irrigation and livestock watering.

River water quality is primarily evaluated against the Alberta Ambient Surface Water Quality Interim Guidelines (AWQG). Fecal coliform counts are evaluated using the appropriate Canadian Water Quality Guideline (CWQG), as an Alberta guideline has not been established.

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

Water is one of the necessities of life. Surface water quality can be evaluated on the basis of its suitability for various uses including recreation, the protection of aquatic life, and irrigation and stock watering. River water quality is used for this measure because the effects of human activities are generally more evident in rivers than in lakes.

The use of river water for drinking is not evaluated. Untreated water is not safe to drink because of the possible presence of natural disease-causing organisms. Further, a good or fair rating for the protection of aquatic life at a particular site does not imply that the consumption of fish caught there is necessarily safe.

Key Strategies for Goal 15

- ensure standards are acceptable and take action to maintain the quality of air, land, water and ecosystems. — *Environmental Protection*
- ensure clear responsibility and accountability for environmental management, including the respective roles of government and industry. — *Alberta Economic Development Authority, Environmental Protection*
- provide predictable, consistent and streamlined regulations for land use and resource management. — *Alberta Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Environmental Protection*

Groundwater quality is measured in terms of the percentage of water samples from municipal wells which comply with Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. Environmental Protection samples and tests municipal groundwater supplies.
All cases where guidelines are not met are because of naturally occurring geological conditions.

Percentage of Groundwater Samples Not Meeting Guidelines

	Licensed Groundwater Systems	Fluoride	Arsenic	Cadmium	Lead	All Others*
1994	223	4.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0
1995	n/a	1.0	0	0	0	0
1996	n/a	5.2	0	0	0	0.3
1997	200	7.0	0	0	0	0

* All others includes: boron, cyanide, nitrates chromium, selenium, barium, mercury and organic compounds.
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection
Note: The number of licensed groundwater systems has decreased owing to deregulation and communities being connected to regional systems. n/a = not available.

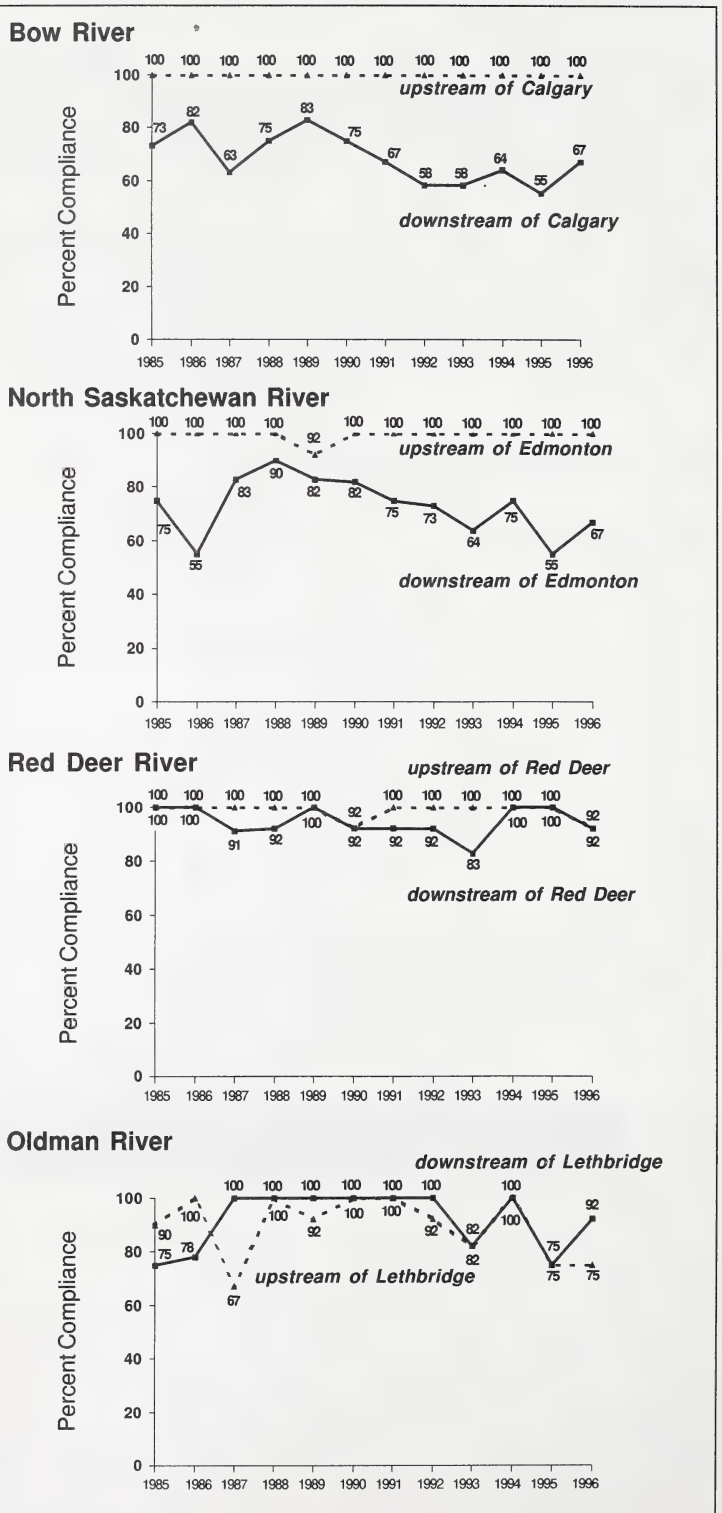
For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Goal 15 - Supplemental Information

Compliance with Fecal Coliform Bacteria Guideline

Most water quality guidelines are met upstream of developed areas more frequently than downstream, reflecting the adverse effects of development. One of the variables which is occasionally above its guideline value is fecal coliform bacteria. These graphs illustrate the percent compliance upstream and downstream of Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge on the Bow, North Saskatchewan, Red Deer and Oldman Rivers respectively. Fecal coliform bacteria usually originates in the guts of warm-blooded animals. The presence of these bacteria can therefore represent contamination of water by human sewage or by the feces of livestock, wildlife, and waterfowl. The number of these bacteria indicates the relative risk of illness for water users.

The fecal coliform guideline is almost always met upstream of Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary. Downstream of these cities, particularly Edmonton and Calgary, the guideline is often exceeded. Both Calgary and Edmonton have recently begun to disinfect their wastewater with ultra-violet light which should improve compliance in the future. The fecal coliform guideline is occasionally not met upstream and downstream of Lethbridge. The upstream sample sight is within city boundaries and is likely influenced by city storm drains.



Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

Core Measure: Land Quality

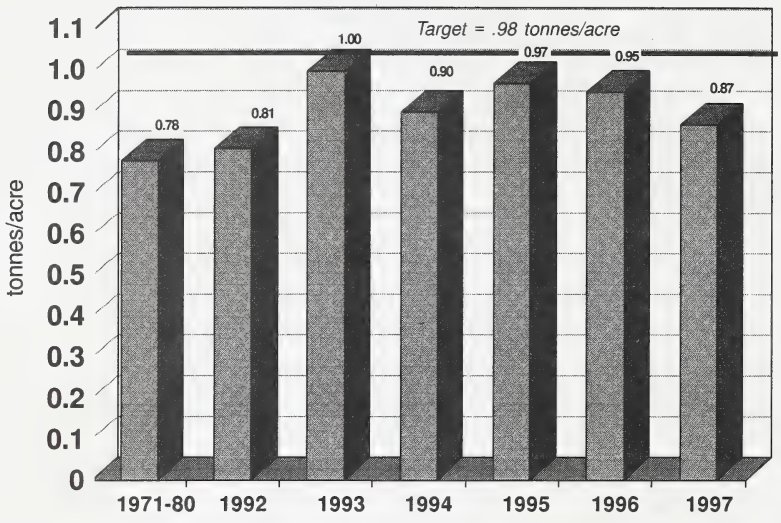
Target

Increase crop yield per acre to 0.98 tonnes per acre by the year 2000.

Results

Crop yield per acre has been gradually improving over the past few years and is higher than that experienced during the 1970's; however, it dropped in 1997 owing to an unseasonably wet spring.

Land Productivity



Source: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

The quality, health and productivity of Alberta's land base is vital to our health and to our economy. Ensuring that land is used wisely for agriculture, forestry, industrial use, municipal development, recreation and tourism, or other uses is critical to our economic, social and cultural well-being.

There are currently no comprehensive Canadian nor Alberta indicators for land or soil quality. We are able to test soil quality, but there is no map of soil quality for the province. As a proxy, we are using crop yield on a tonnes per acre basis. Crop yield is an indirect measure of long term land productivity.

Methodology

Data is collected by Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for the various crops and is converted to a standard base of tonnes per acre of wheat.

Goal 15 - The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.

Key Strategies for Goal 15

- ensure standards are acceptable and take action to maintain the quality of air, land, water and ecosystems. — *Environmental Protection*
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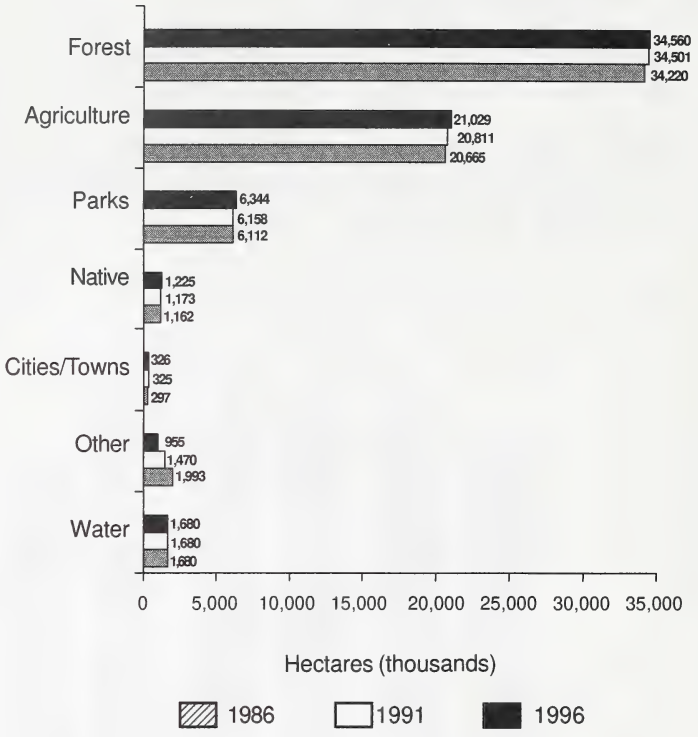
For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Land Use Changes (1986 to 1996)

Changes in land use may have implications on the sustainability of natural ecosystems over time. Monitoring the change in land used for municipalities will also indicate the effect of human activities on the land.



Source:

Forest	Alberta Environmental Protection, Green Zone estimates with exceptions of Provincial and National Parks and Forests within Aboriginal Areas.
Agriculture	Statistics Canada, 1996 Agricultural Profile of Alberta, Cat. 95-180XPB.
Parks and Water	Compendium of Canadian Forestry Statistics, National Forestry Database 1996.
Native	Alberta Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.
Cities/Towns	Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Canada (GEOREF) and Agricultural Census of Canada.

Goal 16 - Albertans will have the opportunity to enjoy the province's natural, historical and cultural resources.

Core Measure: Heritage Appreciation

Target

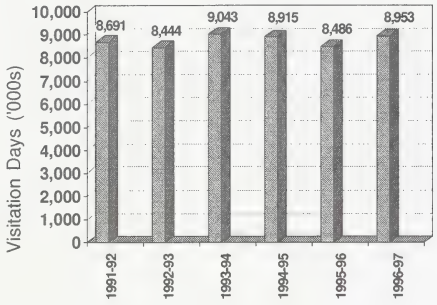
To be determined.

At the time the *1997-2000 Government Business Plan* was published in February 1997, this measure had not yet been developed. Therefore, it is presented here as baseline information only. The full measure will be included in next year's report.

Results

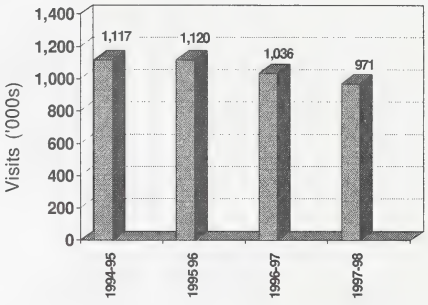
New measure. Baseline information only.

Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas Visitation



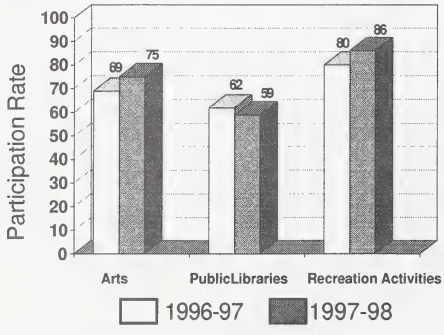
Source: Alberta Environmental Protection

Historic Sites and Museums Visitation



Source: Alberta Community Development

Arts, Libraries and Recreation Activities Participation Rate



Source: Alberta Community Development, based on 1997 and 1998 Environics West surveys.

Methodology

Environmental Protection manages the provincial Recreation and Protected Areas System consisting of provincial parks, provincial recreation areas, ecological reserves, natural areas and wilderness areas. Visitation statistics for Albertans and non-Albertans are collected by the Ministry for provincial parks and recreation areas only. The parks visitation data includes day use statistics collected using automatic traffic counters and adjusted based upon periodic surveys of day users during the peak season.

Visitation data for historic sites and museums is collected by Community Development for 18 provincially operated historic sites and museums. Visitation to other Alberta museums is not reflected in these rates.

Data on the percentage of Albertans participating in arts programs, public libraries, and recreation activities is from an Environics West survey conducted in the spring of 1997 and 1998 on behalf of Community Development.

Goal 16 - Albertans will have the opportunity to enjoy the province's natural, historical and cultural resources.

Albertans and Alberta communities enjoy a high quality of life owing, in part, to the opportunities to access the province's wealth of natural, cultural and historical resources. These resources include recreation and protected areas, historic sites, museums, libraries, arts programs and recreational opportunities.

Preservation is a term used to describe the entire field of activities which ensure the survival and integrity of our heritage resources, including their identification, study, protection, development, management and interpretation.

Key Strategies for Goal 16

- protect and manage Alberta's parks and natural reserves. *Environmental Protection*
- support and encourage the development of arts and culture as fundamental assets in Alberta's quality of life. *Community Development*
- coordinate and support a province-wide library system. *Community Development*
- preserve, protect and present Alberta's history and culture through programs, exhibits, historic sites and museums. *Community Development*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

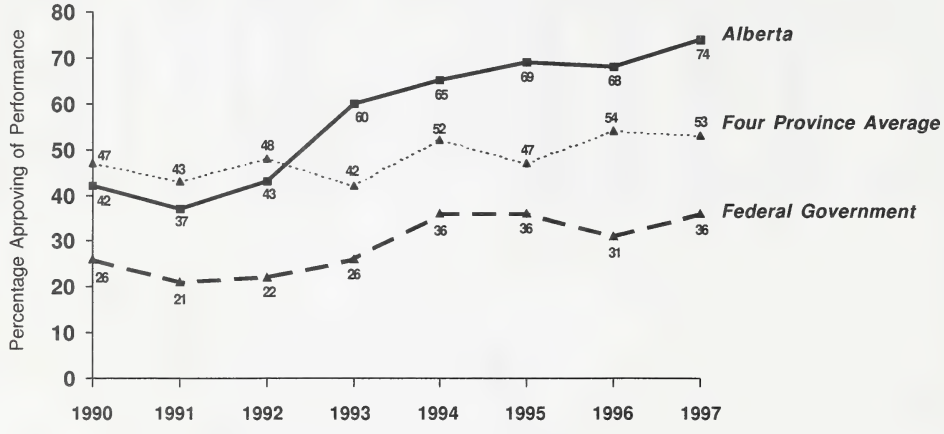
Goal 17 - Alberta will work with other governments and maintain its strong position in Canada.

Core Measure: Intergovernmental Relations

Target Maintain the Alberta Government's public approval rating in federal-provincial relations at a level equivalent to the average approval rating of four other provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario).

At the time the *1997-2000 Government Business Plan* was published in February 1997, this measure had not yet been developed. Therefore, it is presented here as baseline information only. The full measure will be included in next year's report.

Results New measure. Baseline information only.



Source: Environics Research Group Limited, Focus Canada Report

The Alberta Government plays a significant role in the Canadian federation, demonstrating leadership in those policy areas that affect the well-being of Albertans and other Canadians.

In particular, Alberta works to improve the social and economic well-being of Albertans through a more effective and efficient federation. The government recognizes that positive and productive relations between governments are essential for the effective operation of the Canadian federation.

The province continually seeks fair and equitable treatment for Alberta within the federation, while recognizing the importance of helping other provinces achieve economic and fiscal self-reliance.

Methodology

Environics conducts a regular national opinion poll surveying the views of Canadians regarding the performance of their provincial and federal government in various areas of governance. The results are reported in the *Focus Canada Report*. Albertans are specifically asked to rate their approval or disapproval of the way their government (both their provincial government and the federal government) is handling federal-provincial relations. The numbers show the percentage of provincial citizens approving of their respective government's performance.

Goal 17 - Alberta will work with other governments and maintain its strong position in Canada.

Key Strategies for Goal 17

◆ work to improve fiscal arrangements to ensure that federal revenues are shared fairly among the provinces.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, Treasury*
◆ ensure that Alberta's interests are represented and protected in key federal programs and initiatives.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*
◆ participate fully in discussions across Canada on Aboriginal self-government.	*Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*
◆ continue to promote a strong and united Canada.	*All ministries*

For more information, see the related ministry measures listed in the Appendix

Appendix

Summary of related ministry measures

PEOPLE

Goals	Core Government Measures	Ministries	Primary Ministry Measures	Secondary Measures
Albertans will be healthy.	Life Expectancy at Birth	♦ Health ♦ Community Development ♦ Labour	➡ Life expectancy at birth ➡ Provincial rate of injury deaths including suicide ➡ Lost - workplace time (injury or death)	▲ Number of deaths due to cervical cancer ▲ Percent of low birth weight newborn babies ▲ Breast screening rates ▲ Percent of Albertans who do not smoke ▲ AADAC service effectiveness
	Health Status	♦ Health ♦ Community Development ♦ Labour	➡ Percent of Albertans rating their own health "excellent" or "very good"	▲ Percent of Albertans reporting failure to receive needed care ▲ Childhood immunization coverage ▲ Percent of Albertans rating quality of care received "excellent" or "very good" ▲ Level of support for arts, culture, sport and recreation activities ▲ Lost - workplace time (injury or death)
Our children will be well cared for and safe.	Births to Mothers Under Age 18	♦ Family and Social Services ♦ Community Development ♦ Education ♦ Health ♦ Justice	➡ Proportion of single-parent welfare cases with Child Support Orders or Agreements ➡ Client satisfaction with the Maintenance Enforcement Program	▲ Percentage of children who stay free from abuse or neglect while in the Ministry's care ▲ Percentage of day care centres meeting critical government standards ▲ Percentage of low birth weight newborn babies
Alberta students will excel.	Educational Attainment	♦ Education ♦ Advanced Education and Career Development	➡ School completion ➡ Grades 3,6,9 provincial achievement tests ➡ Provincial diploma examinations	▲ Parent, student and public satisfaction with graduates' preparation for work and further study ▲ Employability indicator ▲ Public satisfaction indicator ▲ Learner satisfaction indicator
Albertans will be independent.	Literacy and Numeracy Levels	♦ Advanced Education and Career Development ♦ Education ♦ Family and Social Services ♦ Municipal Affairs	➡ Grades 3,6,9 provincial achievement tests ➡ Provincial diploma examinations	▲ Parent, student and public satisfaction with graduates' preparation for work and further study ▲ Parent and student satisfaction with aspects of education ▲ Proportion of Employment Initiative Graduates not receiving welfare benefits 12 months after graduation or placement ▲ Expected to work clients per 1,000 working age population

PEOPLE					
Goals	**Core Government Measures**	**Ministries**	**Primary Ministry Measures**	**Secondary Measures**	
Albertans will be independent.	Family Income Distribution	♦ Advanced Education and Career Development ♦ Education ♦ Family and Social Services ♦ Municipal Affairs	➡ Employability indicator ➡ Proportion of welfare cases remaining closed after 12 months	▲ Proportion of single-parent welfare cases with Child Support Orders or Agreements ▲ Housing assistance directed to low income, high need clients	
Albertans not able to support themselves fully will receive help.	Albertans Needing Help	♦ Family and Social Services ♦ Community Development ♦ Municipal Affairs	➡ Eligible seniors receive the support to which they are entitled	▲ Percentage of service providers serving persons with developmental disabilities with policies that meet Ministry core standards ▲ Percentage of service providers serving persons with developmental disabilities in compliance with Ministry core standards ▲ Housing assistance directed to low income, high need clients	

PROSPERITY

Goals	Core Government Measures	Ministries	Primary Ministry Measures	Secondary Measures
Alberta will have a prosperous economy.	Gross Domestic Product	♦ Economic Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Energy ♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs ♦ Science, Research and Information Technology ♦ Treasury	➡ Manufacturing and service industry investment ➡ Manufacturing and service exports ➡ Business formations - incorporations ➡ Contribution of agricultural industries to provincial GDP ➡ Energy industry economic performance (outputs) ➡ Energy industry economic performance (capital spending) ➡ Market capital raised in Alberta	▲ Manufacturing shipments - all sectors ▲ Manufacturing shipments - advanced technology ▲ Tourism revenue ▲ Value of out-of-province shipments of agriculture and food products ▲ Alberta food and beverage industries' value of shipments ▲ ARC economic impact ▲ Alberta's annual surplus (deficit)
	Job Creation	♦ Economic Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Energy ♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs ♦ Science, Research and Information Technology ♦ Treasury	➡ Agricultural industries' employment ➡ Energy industry economic performance (employment)	▲ ARC job creation
	Resource Wealth	♦ Economic Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Energy ♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs ♦ Science, Research and Information Technology ♦ Treasury	➡ Contribution of agricultural industries to provincial GDP ➡ Energy industry economic performance (outputs)	▲ Tourism revenue ▲ Alberta farm cash receipts ▲ Energy industry economic performance (royalties, sales, fees)

PROSPERITY				
Goals	**Core Government Measures**	**Ministries**	**Primary Ministry Measures**	**Secondary Measures**
Our workforce will be skilled and productive.	Skill Development	♦ Advanced Education and Career Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Economic Development ♦ Education ♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs	➡ Public satisfaction indicator ➡ Learner satisfaction indicator ➡ Employability indicator ➡ Parent, student and public satisfaction with graduates' preparation for work and further study	▲ Adult participation indicator ▲ School completion ▲ Parent and student satisfaction with aspects of education
Our businesses will capitalize on research.	Adoption of New Technologies	♦ Science, Research and Information Technology ♦ Advanced Education and Career Development ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Economic Development ♦ Education ♦ Energy	➡ Manufacturing shipments - advanced technology ➡ Energy industry economic performance (synthetic oil production costs) ➡ Preservation of public safety and environment (sulphur recovery) ➡ Protection of public's interest in its resources	▲ ARC economic impact ▲ ARC R&D funding from the private sector ▲ Research excellence indicator ▲ Alberta food and beverage industries' value of shipments ▲ Parent and student satisfaction with aspects of education (computer skills)
Alberta will have effective and efficient infrastructure.	Cost of Government	♦ Transportation and Utilities ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Economic Development ♦ Energy ♦ Municipal Affairs ♦ Public Works, Supply and Services		▲ Cost of Energy ministry operations ▲ Operating cost of owned space managed by PWSS
	Infrastructure Capacity	♦ Transportation and Utilities ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Economic Development ♦ Energy ♦ Municipal Affairs ♦ Public Works, Supply and Services	➡ Primary highway pavement condition ➡ Reduction in commercial vehicle overloads ➡ Energy industry economic performance (exports)	▲ North-south trade corridor ▲ Energy industry economic performance (capital spending) ▲ Customer satisfaction with capital project delivery services ▲ Customer satisfaction with telecommunications services

PROSPERITY				
Goals	**Core Government Measures**	**Ministries**	**Primary Ministry Measures**	**Secondary Measures**
Alberta will have a financially stable, open and accountable government.	Taxation Load	♦ Treasury ♦ all ministries ♦ Personnel Administration Office ♦ Public Affairs Bureau ♦ Public Works, Supply and Services	➡ Relative provincial and municipal tax load on Albertans	▲ Alberta's annual surplus (deficit)
	Provincial Credit Rating	♦ Treasury ♦ all ministries ♦ Personnel Administration Office ♦ Public Affairs Bureau ♦ Public Works, Supply and Services	➡ Alberta's cost of borrowing relative to Canada's in the Canadian bond market	
	Net Debt	♦ Treasury ♦ all ministries ♦ Personnel Administration Office ♦ Public Affairs Bureau ♦ Public Works, Supply and Services	➡ Alberta's annual surplus (deficit) ➡ Alberta's investment rates of return	
Alberta will have a fair and safe work environment.	Workplace Climate	♦ Labour ♦ Community Development	➡ Lost person-days (labour disputes, work stoppages) ➡ Lost workplace time (injury or death)	▲ Satisfaction of Albertans with human rights protection
Alberta businesses will increase exports.	Export Trade	♦ Economic Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority ♦ Advanced Education and Career Development ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs	➡ Manufacturing and service industry exports ➡ Number of Alberta exporters	▲ Value of out-of-province shipments of agriculture and food products

PRESERVATION				
Goals	**Core Government Measures**	**Ministries**	**Primary Ministry Measures**	**Secondary Measures**
Alberta will be a safe place to live and raise families.	Crime Rate	♦ Justice ♦ Community Development ♦ Municipal Affairs ♦ Transportation and Utilities	➡ Public safety	▲ Public satisfaction with the justice system ▲ Court delays ▲ Satisfaction of Albertans with human rights protection
	Serious Youth Crime	♦ Justice ♦ Community Development ♦ Municipal Affairs ♦ Transportation and Utilities	➡ Public safety	▲ Public satisfaction with the justice system
Alberta's natural resources will be sustained.	Resource Sustainability	♦ Energy ♦ Environmental Protection ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	➡ Protection of public's interest in its resources ➡ Timber sustainability ➡ Land productivity indicator	▲ Reduction of municipal solid waste to landfills ▲ Species at risk
The high quality of Alberta's environment will be maintained.	Air Quality	♦ Environmental Protection ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority	➡ Air quality index	▲ Preservation of public safety and environment (sulphur recovery)
	Water Quality	♦ Environmental Protection ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority	➡ Surface water quality index	▲ Pulp production versus the amount of substance discharged
	Land Quality	♦ Environmental Protection ♦ Agriculture, Food and Rural Development ♦ Alberta Economic Development Authority	➡ Land productivity indicator	

PRESERVATION				
Goals	**Core Government Measures**	**Ministries**	**Primary Ministry Measures**	**Secondary Measures**
Albertans will have the opportunity to enjoy the province's natural, historic and cultural resources.	Heritage Appreciation	♦ Environmental Protection ♦ Community Development	➡ Appreciation of Alberta's diverse natural, historical and cultural resources	▲ Area of parks and natural reserves in Alberta ▲ Level of support for arts, cultural, sport and recreation activities
Alberta will work with other governments and maintain its strong position in Canada.	Intergovernmental Relations	♦ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs ♦ Treasury ♦ all ministries		▲ Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs client satisfaction

Feedback Questionnaire

The purpose of measuring performance and making these reports public is to give Albertans useful information about the government's performance in core areas. By focusing on priorities, setting targets for performance and measuring progress, we can make sure that we are getting the best results for the dollars we spend. Overall, the purpose is to keep improving services for Albertans.

Given that purpose for the *Measuring Up* report:

1. How accurately do the core measures assess the government's performance?

Very Accurately	Somewhat Accurately	Not at all Accurately	No Opinion
1	2	3	4	5	❑

2. Is government measuring the right things?

❑ Yes ❑ No

If no, what additional measures should government consider?

1._____

2._____

3._____

What measures would you take out?

1._____

2._____

3._____

Thank you for your feedback.
Please return this questionnaire to:

Alberta Treasury
Performance Measurement
Room 455, Terrace Building
9515 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C3
or
FAX to:
(403) 422-2164
or
E-mail to:
measuringup@treas.gov.ab.ca

3. What would make this report more useful to you?

_____

_____

4. What measures would you like more information on?

1._____

2._____

3._____

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